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Memories of Murray page 2 Biting bugs page 5 Athletes of the Year pages 14 & 15

The newly opened Scoop Shack welcomed their first customers this past Tuesday, June 9 at their downtown Haliburton location. The ice cream shop hopes to offer sweet Kawartha Dairy treats for locals and visitors over the summer months. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

# Scoop Shack ready to roll

EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

It's been years since downtown Haliburton has had an ice cream destination. While many local shops have provided the tasty treat alongside their regular offerings, there has not been a specific destination for ice cream.

Until this past week. On Tuesday, June 9, Brandon Nimigon and Megan Zwart opened the Scoop Shack, housed in the former Cool Licks building. While the location was once owned under the umbrella of Bernstein's next door, it was sold two years ago to new management. Those owners began some upgrades to the space, including an exterior paint job, but a change in life circumstances prevented them from opening the shop.

Nimigon and Zwart are now leasing the space from the current owner to bring ice cream back to the community. "For a community like ours, you need an ice cream shop," said Nimigon, right after he sold his very first cone last Tuesday. "Kawartha Dairy in Minden is great, but we needed something downtown here."

Nimigon and Zwart purchased the Bernstein's building on Highlands Street

see KAWARTHA page 17

# Bringing light to the downtown core

EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

Kohara is a Maori word that means passion and enthusiasm.

And that's exactly what Brandi Hewson, the owner of Kohara + Co. in the heart of Haliburton, is striving to bring to the community.

The local businesswoman has recently opened her second location on Highland Street, after the success of her initial shop on Industrial Park Road began to grow.

Stemming from Hewson's background in plumbing and trades, the shop quickly evolved to cater to multiple components of building and design. "Our goal was to walk them through the whole process," explained Hewson, "and the home decor part just kind of evolved from there. We kind of turned this into a full scope."

While the Industrial Park location was dedicated to implementing these designs, Hewson shared that she often had visitors to the shop specifically seeking her interior decor styles. "Switching to a downtown location was about listening to what people were asking for," said Hewson. "These details are where we play."

With wall-to-wall offerings of furniture, glassware, candles, clothing, and quality design pieces, Hewson and her team have

see KOHARA page 17

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# Memories of Murray during County council

EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

Wednesday, June 10 was the first meeting of County council since the passing of Dysart et al Mayor Murray Fearrey. The meeting began with tributes from the County councillors, and moments of reflection on Fearrey's time in office. /Dysart Facebook

There was an empty chair at this week's County council meeting.

And while the seat sat empty, the presence of Murray Fearrey was felt around the room.

To kick off the June 10 regular meeting of council, Warden Dave Burton started the meeting by asking for tributes to the former Dysart mayor, who passed away on May 28 of this year.

"To dedicate one's life to one's community, to really do it, as Murray did, is not an act of fleeting passion," opened Councillor Jennifer Dailloux, deputy mayor for Algonquin Highlands. "It does not depend on a continual string of success to maintain its motivation. It is a deliberate daily choice."

Dailloux went on to say that Fearrey was a teacher for his dedication to the County council table. "I learned a lot from Murray, but perhaps the most important lesson was also the subtlest," she said. "Murray showed me that such a rare, genuine kind of commitment is never an act against. It is always an act for. Thank you, Murray."

Councillor Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor for Highlands East, tuned into the meeting via Zoom due to an obligation out of town with Lakelands Public Health. He noted that he met Mayor Fearrey in 2011, when Ryall was first elected. "It wasn't until Murray returned to County council that I really understood how deeply he cared for Dysart, and the county," said Ryall. "And although I didn't always agree with him, he was always true to what he believed, and I know I am truly going to miss him, and the conversations that we had."

Lisa Schell, the deputy mayor of Minden Hills, took the stand next. "I've known who Murray was my whole life," said Schell, "but didn't have the opportunity to work with him until this term of County council." Schell went on to say that she greatly admired his dedication to voting for what he believed to be right, and maintaining professionalism along the way. "He led without the need for recognition," she said. "We will continue to see Murray's work and love for the county through the many things he built and made happen over his many years as not only mayor, but as a member of this community. And I'm going to really miss having him here at the County council table with us."

Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, noted that he and Fearrey had overlapped in work over the years, but were just in their first term of County council together. "The one thing that always impressed me was, these difficult decisions that we had to make, particularly concerning money, he always related it back to the individual taxpayer," said Carter, "and what impact that was going to have."

Carter noted that the one major area in which Fearrey will be missed is the upcoming governance study, which analyzes inefficiencies through the two-tiered system. "I would really have liked to spend time discussing the outcome of that study with him," he said, "and that is what I'm going to miss the most. Rest in peace, Murray, you did wonderful things. I think we all will miss you."

Councillor Walt McKechnie, the deputy mayor of Dysart, shared his heartfelt thoughts. He recognized the appreciation and love that Fearrey felt towards Dysart staff, as well as council members. "He tried to keep the taxes as low as he could," said McKechnie. "But we also accomplished so much in Dysart when he was the mayor over those 50 years. He had such dedication to the taxpayers."

McKechnie reflected on the passion and joy Fearrey felt from working with locals. "He used to love walking down the street and meeting people," he said through tears. "He used to tell me that up until the end."

McKechnie shared that Fearrey was the person who talked him into local government. "He taught me how important it was to listen," he said. "He taught me how to sleep on it. 'Let's talk about it in the morning,' he'd say. Murray was a friend for sure, but he was a brother. We laughed, joked, teased. That's what brothers do … I'm really going to miss Murray, but I'll never forget him. That's for sure."

McKechnie gave tribute to Fearrey's wife, Donna McCallum, noting how she always listened and always supported Fearrey in his various community roles.

CAO for the County of Haliburton, Gary Dyke, spoke on behalf of staff. "I only had the chance to work with Murray for three years," he said, "but during that brief time together, the fact that he had community first … he thought about how it would affect the community. And although we didn't always agree on things, he was always respectful about it … as members of County staff, we couldn't ask for anything more, and he will certainly be missed."

While Councillor Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, was absent from the meeting, she had sent along words for Warden Burton to share. She noted that she first met Fearrey over 18 years ago, when she was a municipal affairs reporter. "Even when we disagreed, he was understanding of my views and always a total gentleman," she shared. "No one has done more for Dysart and Haliburton County than this man over the decades. He has served us all well, and will be sorely missed."

Warden Burton then closed the portion for tributes with his own. "When the time comes to say goodbye to a best friend, finding the right words can be overwhelming," he said. He recalled meeting Fearrey 25 years ago, at McKecks over a working lunch. "The friendship blossomed quickly as we discovered we had a fair bit in common."

He compared the life of Murray Fearrey to one of his favourite pastimes: a good game of golf. "It was never about finishing the course as fast as you could," said Burton. "It was about the integrity of the swing, the patience required, and the joy of sharing the fairway with good company."

"Murray played his final hole," closed Burton. "He's finally at peace, at the perfect, sunlit fairway in the sky."

The session concluded with a standing moment of silence amongst staff and councillors.

# Mental health support available locally

EMILY STONEHOUSE

*Editor*

With May being Mental Health Month and June focusing on Men's Mental Health Month, it seems only fitting that Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) officially launch their new mental health and patient care space within the local emergency department.

As of June 1, the new space will provide patients in crisis with a safer, more private, and less stimulating environment. "HHHS is seeing more individuals present to the emergency department in crisis, and those numbers continue to increase year over year," explained Lauren Ernst, the chief communications officer for HHHS. "Previously, patients requiring observation and support for mental health concerns were cared for in a space that was not ideal. The area lacked privacy, was highly stimulating, and made it more challenging for staff to provide ongoing monitoring and support."

Ernst explained that the new space has been specifically designed to meet the needs of patients who may be experiencing a mental health crisis, while maintaining and enhancing safety and care.

"This new space reflects our commitment to delivering compassionate, patient-centred care while ensuring every individual receives support in an environment designed to meet their needs," said Chief Nursing Executive, Victoria Miscio. "These enhancements improve not only the patient experience, but also how our teams work together to provide safe, high-quality care."

Ernst shared that the space has been mindfully designed with patient safety as the number one priority. Located away from the main waiting area with a recessed entrance, the room is equipped with specialized drywall and door hardware to mitigate any risks. It also has an area where the OPP can set up a dedicated workspace if needed. "This supports collaboration, enhances observation capabilities, and helps the care team provide safe, coordinated care," she explained. "Additionally, the room is equipped with a camera to allow for enhanced observation and monitoring, helping to ensure patient safety at all times."

It was noted that patients presenting with mental health concerns will be prioritized for the space. "As with all treatment areas in the emergency department, patients do not permanently occupy a specific room or chair," explained Ernst. "Depending on patient needs and department activity, individuals may return to the waiting room and be brought back when appropriate. This flexibility ensures the mental health space remains available for patients who require it most."

Based on 2025 statistics from the Canadian Mental Health Association, by the age of 40, about half of Canada's population will have experienced mental illness. In 2020, almost one quarter of hospitalizations of people aged five to 24 were for a mental illness. "The need for mental health services continues to grow, and emergency departments are seeing increasing numbers of patients seeking support for mental health concerns," said Ernst. "Having a dedicated space helps us provide safer, more appropriate care for these individuals."

> ***"Having a dedicated space helps us provide safer, more appropriate care for these individuals."***
>
> – Lauren Ernst, chief communications officer for HHHS

Ernst shared that mental health care is a collaborative effort. She noted that this specific project was 100 per cent funded by generous donors through the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. "We are deeply grateful to our donors whose generosity continues to transform healthcare close to home," said HHHS CEO Jack Hutchison. "Their support allows us to create spaces that improve both patient care and staff experience while strengthening the services available to our community."

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### Household Hazardous Waste Day

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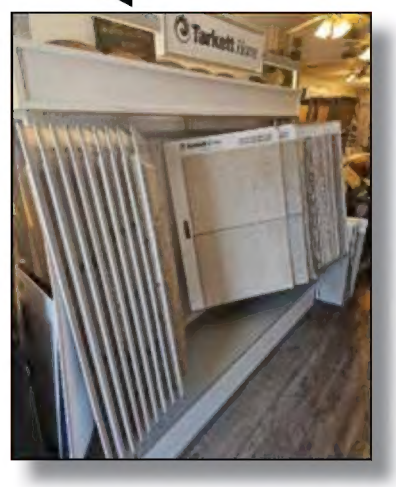

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# Community Living strike ongoing

DANIELLE CARNEY

*Guest Columnist*

Cars honk in continued support as they pass the OPSEU/SEFPO picket line on Maple Avenue in Haliburton. Now entering their fourth week on strike, local frontline workers at Community Living Trent Highlands (CLTH) remain resolute in standing up for the vulnerable people they serve.

The workers say they feel bolstered by the community - especially when client families stop by the line. "We've had client family members come up and shake each and every one of our hands, thanking us for the work we do," says Sabrina Rushlow, a longtime frontline worker. "We've even had a father show up with his supported daughter, and that was a huge morale boost."

Jessica Bushey, lead local union representative and spokesperson for OPSEU/SEFPO Local 358, reinforces this sentiment. "The solidarity and support from the people we support, their families, our community and each other has been invaluable to us. Haliburton is a very tight-knit community that shows up and jumps in when help is needed. We are incredibly grateful to the people who stop by to support us, and the businesses who have made donations to those striking members."

She encourages the community and families to help by visiting the campaign website at www.worthfightingfor.ca to send a letter to the government. "They can write Laurie Scott and Doug Ford, call them, and help us make noise and build pressure so we can get back to work."

Frontline workers enthusiastically list many of the supportive local businesses: Fleming College, SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, Coming Full Circle, Snaffle and Mane, Haliburton County Public Library, Kegel Heating & Cooling, and B. Ironside Art /Latitude Tattoo. These organizations have posted flyers, offered donations for refreshments, and opened their facilities to the strikers.

OPSEU/SEFPO members walked off the job on May 25, 2026, as part of the province-wide "Worth Fighting For" campaign. Bushey says the core demands are a remedy for wages suppressed by Bill 124 and adequate provincial funding for the sector. "We are seeking a meaningful wage increase that meets sector standards from CLTH," she adds.

## A deeper crisis

I sat down with some of the striking workers after a day on the line in the hot sun. The common feeling among them is that this strike is shining a much-needed light on a long-standing crisis: vulnerable people in our community are being underserved because of chronic underfunding.

Lynette Fike has been a devoted PSW and DSW in the region for 30 years. For her, advocating for adequate funding and programming has been a career-long battle. "Advocating for our clients is our number one mission," she said. "It's what we all love to do. It's not for the money - it's for the quality of life of our clients. They need to get out into the community, and that takes funding."

These workers are often the lifeline for people who need extra support with the most basic daily tasks. "Some of them take quite a bit of motivation and encouragement just to get out of bed," Fike explained. "If the staff they know and trust are there, they're more eager to start their day ... I've been doing this for 30 years and you develop very close bonds."

Rushlow, with 12 years in the role, adds that even routine needs can become impossible without enough staff. "Something as simple as a bath can require three staff members. If one person calls in sick or has to leave, that person doesn't get their bath. We need the funding so this doesn't keep happening."

## "One accident away"

Fike speaks plainly, and with heart, about how fragile these supports can be: "People don't realize how quickly your life can change. One accident and you could need the services we provide ... If those supports aren't in place, you have nothing. You're on your own. It doesn't have to be developmental - you could be one accident away from being in the very position our clients are in."

Without adequate staffing, training, and funding, workers are stretched thin, service gaps appear, and our most vulnerable community members pay the price.

Long shifts, last-minute overtime, and overnight gaps are all too common. "You may come in at 7:30 a.m. and not get home until 11 p.m.," Rushlow says. "We're taxing our own family lives and our own health ... We know when they need us. We may be the only ones that know how to calm them down. Without that, it's a huge loss for them."

## Families stand with the workers

Families receiving these services echo the workers' concerns.

Rob Deubel's daughter Tori has been supported by Community Living for eight years, and has developed close bonds with many of the frontline workers. When the strike began, her group home was temporarily closed and she was moved to another supported living setting. While she adjusted, Deubel says his daughter is now missing her regular staff and the chance to get out into the community.

When I shared how my own son is a recipient of Community Living services and how Patty Babineau has been an angel in our lives, Deubel replied, "You see how Patty is your angel? Well, there are dozens of those angels right here in Haliburton, and I'm sure there are many, many more all over the province. They are an integral part of our lives."

A former steelworker, Deubel understands the heavy toll of prolonged strikes but stands fully behind the workers. He notes that underfunding leads to staff turnover, reduced maintenance of homes and vehicles, and lower quality of care. "We really need our special education and community service programs funded properly so we can look after our loved ones with special needs."

Deubel voiced broader frustration with government spending priorities: "Why is the provincial government considering things like a private jet, expanding Billy Bishop Airport, and tunneling under the 401, while our Education, Special Ed, Community and Social Services, and Medical systems are clearly so underfunded?"

## The path forward

On Thursday, June 11, Community Living Trent Highlands (CLTH) Executive Director Teresa Jordan invited OPSEU Local 358 to return to the bargaining table in an effort to end the strike at the local level. "We're committed to supporting and further strengthening our relationship with Local 358 and their members in Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton," Jordan said. She added that the agency is willing to meet "any time, as early as this afternoon."

I emailed local union representative Jessica Bushey about this invitation. She responded: "We are looking at dates to return; however, without the employer getting funding that meets the Worth Fighting For campaign demands, it will not be fruitful. We will of course still meet with them, however the membership has made it clear that they want to stay in the campaign. No date has been confirmed - it's not as simple as the employer has made it seem as we have a government-appointed conciliator that we have to schedule with as well."

The frontline workers standing on Maple Street in Haliburton are continuing their fight for wage increases as the Community Living strike continues. /DANIELLE CARNEY

She noted that local negotiations have gone relatively well despite challenges. "The local negotiations generally have been going well due to the hard work of our bargaining team, despite our employer's below-sector-standard wage offer. We have been able to get some other good gains at the table."

Bushey is clear on what's needed next: "We need the Ford government to negotiate with us. They keep giving the excuse that we have to negotiate with our employer, which is only partially true. Bill 124 remedy has been given to many workers in this province. Why not us? Why not the workers who care for arguably the most vulnerable Ontarians? We are 26 individual locals across eight sectors in OPSEU/SEFPO and we aren't going to back down. The people we support deserve better, and so do we."

Michelle Cooper, a coordinator at CLTH, echoed this perspective on recent provincial funding announcements: "Yes, funding was provided by the government in the budget; however, that is not for the remedy of Bill 124. The $400 million is stretched between many social service agencies in the province. It wasn't specifically for Developmental Services. It's for all agencies who are participating in the Worth Fighting For campaign, along with for-profit agencies across Ontario. As we have all been witness over the years of working in the Developmental Service Field, this service is always the last to get whatever funding is left after it is divided up amongst all other agencies - and we all know it is, and never has been, enough to sustain the agencies with all the increased expenses."

I reached out to MPP Laurie Scott for comment on the local impact of the strike and desired outcomes for constituents in the developmental services sector and their clients. In her response, Scott highlighted recent provincial investments, noting nearly $4 billion allocated this year to the sector - an increase of $1.6 billion since 2018 - along with $407 million over three years for operational needs at service agencies. She added that "collective bargaining is a matter between the employer and the union" and urged all parties "to do all they can to reach an agreement to end this labour disruption."

Whether through increased funding, meaningful wage remedies, or a renewed commitment at the bargaining table, one thing is certain: the quiet heroism of these frontline workers - and the supports they provide - deserves much more than words. Haliburton's most vulnerable residents, and the staff who know them best, are counting on it.

# A bumper crop of biting bugs

EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

With a noticeably present black fly season in full force, dragonflies are a welcome critter to combat the ongoing bug season in the woods. /FILE

Don't worry, it's not all in your head.

The biting bugs this season are indeed worse than they've been in recent years.

"Every year, the conditions are slightly different," said naturalist and author of *Nature Nuggets,* Rick Whitteker. "This year, it's been ideal for black flies."

Whitteker explained the black flies breed in clean, moving water. "They don't tolerate pollution," he said, noting their preference for creeks and rivers. The eggs require rocky bottoms to grow, before the fly floats to the top in a bubble. It is only female black flies that bite, in an effort to source protein for their reproduction. Male black flies are the main pollinator for blueberries in the area.

"Because we had flood conditions, followed by cool and damp weather, it made it a good season for black flies," said Whitteker. "And black flies aren't as easy to combat with typical bug juice."

The way the female flies bite varies from other insects. Whereas mosquitos use a straw-like proboscis to suck blood, black flies take a literal chomp. They then use their saliva to numb the area of skin they're biting, with both anticoagulants and anti-inflammatory properties. This is why many do not notice the bites until the blood has pooled to the surface. "The saliva reduces the reaction time," explained Whitteker.

But their season doesn't last long. "They have a short life span," said Whitteker, noting that their life span is a mere three days to three weeks. "They seem to peter out in late spring."

Because the flies don't react to typical sprays or bug deterring scents, Whitteker suggested covering up any exposed skin, and wearing light colours. He noted that the aversion to lighter colours comes from centuries of the flies existing; in the early days, before humans, the flies were drawn exclusively to animals, which came in darker shades.

It's a practice and a preference they maintain to this day. "But they're mostly attracted to carbon dioxide," said Whitteker, explaining that anything breathing could be a target.

While black flies can be a nuisance, Whitteker noted a heightened fear this season around ticks. "If a tick is on you, that can definitely be a bit scary," he said. "There seems to be a real awareness around this now."

With ongoing climate change, Whitteker shared that ticks are moving north at a rate of 50 kilometres a year. The species that can carry Lyme disease is the black-legged tick, also known as the deer tick. But while only one species is known to spread this growing concern, Whitteker noted that other types of ticks may carry additional bacteria picked up from other bitten animals. If you experience a tick bite, Whitteker suggests going to a local pharmacist, who is now able to administer antibiotics without a trip to the hospital.

"One of the concerns of all this is that it limits people wanting to be outdoors," said Whitteker. "But the outdoors is a really healthy place to be."

Whitteker suggests a 'tick tuck' to ensure the crawling critters don't lodge into areas around your ankles. By tucking your pant legs into your socks, the non-flying bugs have a harder time finding a place to burrow, and limits your risks. "It's good that there seems to be a real heightened awareness around ticks now," he said.

In terms of why the season seems worse for bugs, Whitteker explained that it's a bit of a double edged sword. "If you want an easy bug year, you wish for a hot, dry spring," he said. "But that's bad for literally anything else."

Bugs thriving in an ecosystem is a sign of a healthy forest. "Every living creature needs water," explained Whitteker. "While you may feel uncomfortable outside with the bugs, everything else around you benefits."

Bats, song birds, and dragonflies are all welcome animals in our neck of the woods. But without biting bugs, they wouldn't exist. While Whitteker noted that the dragonflies have arrived later this season, their sudden presence will balance out the ongoing biting bugs. "Dragonflies have a 95 per cent kill rate," explained Whitteker. "They are significant, and will help out with all these bugs."

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## Somewhere

Editorial

*Emily Stonehouse*

SOMEWHERE, someone has just been told the greatest news of their lives.

And someone has been told the worst.

Somewhere, a tree has snapped. Its branches mangled. And somewhere a sapling takes root. The knowledge of tomorrow remaining unknown.

Somewhere, lights are being flicked off, a stadium that once roared, silenced.

And somewhere, a kid kicks a ball for the very first time, inspired by a world that cared.

Somewhere, someone you know is locking their door. On their business, on their dream. Maybe tomorrow will be better, they think. They know deep down it won't. But maybe, maybe, maybe.

Somewhere, a man has become a trillionaire. The first of his kind, but not worthy of celebration. A kink in the system, a gap in the pages. He could eradicate world hunger. He won't.

Somewhere, a car alarm blares at 5:48 a.m. Sorry, sorry, sorry, thinks the accidental button pusher. Aware of his neighbours, mindful of his actions. Sorry, sorry, sorry.

Somewhere, the lights stay on all night. While most of us rest, the hospital corridors blare with a cold intensity. People choosing to show up, always for others, never for themselves. Each day blurring into the last.

Somewhere, a fawn is born. Their wobbly legs discovering each step. A resonating tie to motherhood that binds us across species. Watching, waiting, wondering, with each and every step.

Somewhere, someone hides from themselves, for others. Too scared to come out, too uncertain to know they belong. And somewhere, a rainbow flag is raised. A mirage for those who fought for it. A relief and a belief. That they belong, no matter what.

Somewhere, someone waits for food. A line they never believed they'd be in, but now they're here. Eyes pointed down, boots kicking dirt. And somewhere, someone orders another round of Champagne.

Somewhere, wildfires rage. Homes evacuated, chapters closed. And somewhere, the rains pour. Waters rise, and a drought is a distant dream.

Somewhere, someone looks in a mirror. The scars under the surface marring their lens. And somewhere, someone thinks of that person. As the most beautiful they've ever laid eyes on.

Somewhere, someone is opening their eyes, on their last day on this planet.

And somewhere, someone is seeing it all, for the very first time. The first page turned, the first chapter started.

Somewhere, in space and time, we float on. An understanding of logic, laced with a pinch of wonder.

And while we're all somewhere, none of us are in the same place.

## Bans and safe social media

Humans & Technology

*Erin Kernohan-Berning*

ON WEDNESDAY last week, Bill C-34, the Safe Social Media Act, was introduced in the House of Commons. A notable feature of the bill, and one you've probably heard the most about, is the social media ban for youth under the age of 16. But that's only one part of a bill that, if passed into law, seeks to make major changes to how social media platforms are regulated in Canada.

C-34 primarily legislates a duty to act responsibly for regulated online services, including social media platforms. While regulated online services are to be defined under future regulations, it's probably not an outrageous guess that Facebook, Instagram, and X will be among them.

The bill provides a number of areas where platforms will be required to fulfil their duty to act responsibly, which includes removing harmful content as defined under the Act, labelling synthetic (AI generated) content, labelling content that is being boosted by artificial means (such as by bots), and providing a resource person who can be contacted with concerns about harmful content, as well as provide supports to users making a complaint.

The duty to act responsibly also requires AI chatbot services to have a crisis intervention plan if a user expresses suicidal ideation, intention to self-harm, or the intention to commit an act that would cause serious bodily harm or result in the death of another person.

The part of Bill C-34 that is generating the most concern is the minimum age requirement for Canadians to have a social media account. While some might compare this with age related limitations for driving, or buying substances like alcohol and cigarettes, it's a little bit more complicated when it comes to social media. There are concerns about enforcement, children's rights, and whether a social media ban would even be effective at keeping children safe.

Canada is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The UNCRC is an international human rights treaty which defines the rights of children including freedom of expression and freedom of association. Freedom of expression does not just include the ability to express ideas and opinions, but also to participate in spaces where these things can be cultivated – including social media. Freedom of expression is also included in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. A youth social media ban could be subject to a Charter challenge.

Enforcement is also a concern. While C-34 does provide some guidance around age verification and estimation methods, more detailed and prescriptive regulations are left to the to-be-established Digital Safety Commission of Canada. Before a commission is even established, Bill C-34 needs to go through the required readings in the House of Commons and Senate. MP Marc Miller has stated the ban would be in effect once the bill is passed, but before the establishment of a commission. This could make enforcement patchy and confusing without the body in place that's supposed to organize it.

In places where age verification is law, third party companies have filled that role and privacy breaches, such as the one experienced by Discord users last year, have occurred. Enforcement also requires that all users, not just children, have their age verified whether by biometric means or providing some kind of physical or digital ID. Without a defined solution that prioritizes protection of our personal information, every social media user faces an additional layer of risk.

It is also questionable whether this kind of age restriction will be effective at keeping kids safe. Online spaces can provide a lifeline to youth who can't find supportive community in their immediate area. Whether they are living with a disability, exploring their identity, or simply finding common interests with others, having safe online spaces to do that is important. However, age-based bans could drive kids to find less safe spaces that are unregulated or remain in unsafe regulated spaces by circumventing age verification.

Of course, the reason why we're grappling with this at all, is because tech companies have not meaningfully prioritized the safety of their users. In many instances, companies like Meta have implemented design decisions that were known to be harmful to users because they resulted in increased engagement, and therefore increased profit. The experiment of letting social media companies do the right thing themselves has been a failure.

We all have a duty to contribute to the safety of our communities, whether online or otherwise. However, we can't put this responsibility solely on individuals – parents, caregivers, community members – especially when companies have actively created social media to serve their profit margins and not their users. Regulation could help by giving us more tools, more structure, and more recourse to make our online spaces safer, and to make these platforms work for us rather than against us.

# points of view

## The arc of a story

ON FRIDAY night, Jenn said we have a weird sound emanating from a light switch electrical box in the basement.

So, after the fifth time she said this, I promptly went down to investigate. I was the perfect person to do so, for while I have zero knowledge regarding electrical things, I am considered somewhat of an expert on weird noises.

Seconds later, I walked into the furnace room where the metal electrical box was easily seen from the back, and I listened.

Suddenly, a "Chirp, chirp, chirp ..." emanated from what sounded like inside the box.

"It's a cricket," I said. "I have been hearing it in this room for two days now."

I did a quick look around and couldn't see it.

Jenn looked at me doubtfully as I went back upstairs.

Two minutes later she called me back down again.

"I was looking online and they say that a sound like that inside an electrical box could be a loose wire that is arcing," she said. Meanwhile the chirping continued.

Loon Tales

*Steve Galea*

"I'm pretty sure it's a cricket," I replied.

"It sounds like its coming from inside the box. That doesn't sound good."

So, I listened some more.

"We could have arcing," she repeated. "We don't want arcing ... "

Now, I'm not saying that I can be easily led, but I will say that I immediately put my ear to the box and listened some more.

"Chirp, chirp, chirp ... " is what I heard.

Also, when you have never heard wires in an electrical box arc, you'd be amazed how much a cricket sounds like that.

At this point, a real man would have rushed for his tool kit, taken the cover plate off of the light switch and looked inside. Sadly, we did not have one of those around.

Instead, we had a fellow who did not want to get arced to death. I don't know much about arcing, but I did watch part of a documentary about this French lady named Joan who ended getting badly burned.

Luckily, I do know two electricians. So, I called one and got his voice mail, which turned out to be a blessing. Then I called the other fellow, who is a young man who lives across the road.

"What's up?" he said.

I then explained the cricket sound and the almost certain conclusion that our house and the neighbourhood were about to burned down to severe arcing. Or perhaps because a cricket is rubbing its hind legs together so fervently that it would caused a friction-induced fire.

As we were to find out after he very professionally slid a screwdriver in the 1/4 -inch gap between the electrical box and the stud, it turned out to be the latter. Of course, Jenn was nowhere to be seen when the noisy insect hit the floor, but I will say the bug looked sheepish.

So, there I was with the electrician and his father who accompanied him, as we all discovered that what we had here was a cricket imitating a severe electrical arc.

They gave me a look that I can only describe as sympathetic. Then they tried to act as if this kind of thing happened all the time.

I offered to pay, of course, and they would have none of it because it he said he did not do any electrical work.

"Could I pay you for pest control then?" I asked.

They declined.

After they left, Jenn emerged. I just looked at her as she said, "Well, I guess you were right."

I sat in silence and looked at her.

Crickets seemed like the only appropriate reply.

## pic *of the* past

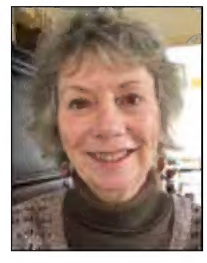
West Guilford School, SS 2 and 3, 1958-59: Eleanor Owens, teacher. Back row: Dan Johnston, Carmen Barry, Bill Reynolds, Jacky Simms, Russell Sisson, Faye Sisson, Marilyn Gibbon, Valerie Sisson, Bryce Newbatt, Ron Bain, Craig Smith, Jimmy Cowan, Randy Scott. Front row: Nancy Lee Welch, Bonnie Barry, Nancy Sisson, Carolyn Cooper, Susan Priest, Robert and Nelson Griffin, Judy Simms, Shirley Sims, Lornel Sisson, Zelda Sisson and Peggy Sawyer. /FILE

## Boats

NICK ALWAYs liked a good storm. That is as long as he could observe the upheaval from a safe spot. So now he watched as his favourite old rowboat pulled on the rope, bouncing and bumping against the dock. That little wooden vessel held many memories for Nick. It was in that boat he had fished as the sun came up over the bay, shrouded in mist with the promise of another summer day. It was in that boat he had rowed to his secret spot to check on his minnow traps. And it was in that boat that he spent the scariest day of his life battling high waves when the wind suddenly came up in the middle of the lake, catching him unawares.

Our road

*Down*



*Sharon Lynch*

His cousin Joe had also had a favourite boat but it had been quite different. A thin slip of a vessel that seated only one, Joe had made it himself from a kit and ran it in the lake regatta races for several years. Nick would watch from shore as Joe leaned forward urging the little craft faster onward. Nick had always wondered if that speedster of a boat filled the gap in Joe's life from a father frequently absent.

Another simple row boat held a surprising story that Nick only learned in middle-age. He had been standing by the dock at his grandmother's cottage when he heard the story. Decades before, his great grandmother used to row the boat to the far end of the lake when she needed supplies from the store. It was a very long lake and she had rowed the full length herself. After docking the rowboat, she would then walk about a mile, mostly uphill, to the store before repeating the journey back. He still had trouble imagining her tackling the waves and the distance. They made them tough back then, he told himself.

When Nick's father's business took off, the family celebrated by getting what he thought of as a pretty fancy craft, at least compared to the little fishing rowboat. This boat had a mahogany deck, chrome fixtures, a windshield and 40 HP engine. To Nick this was the Cadillac of watercraft and it opened up a whole new world of possibilities. He learned to water ski. The gang could go anywhere on the lake without worrying about a change in the weather. And when he first opened its throttle, he loved the way the boat rose in the water like a great whale before planing into a level ride. It made him feel like a king.

But his favourite would always be the old rowboat, now the worse for wear. It reminded him of those magical misty fishing mornings, when the bass nibbled on his line. Or the moonlit nights when he walked down to the dock and just sat in his boat, away from the noise of a large family. Then it was just he, the moon and the boat ever-so-gently breathing in the silence.

## Celebrating cadets

The 1129 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps. held their 41st annual Ceremonial Review on June 9 at the Haliburton Legion. With reviewing officer CWO Nick Bryant, 30 young cadets were celebrated for their dedication to the organization and the community. With several cadets recognized for their service, attendance, marksmanship, dress and deportment, and leadership, many family and community members attended the event to support them.

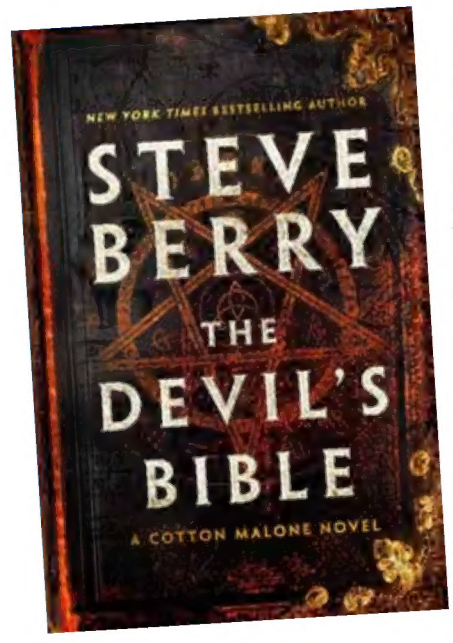
On top of their regular programming, the local cadets program also participates in martial arts, mountain biking, indoor rock climbing, band, and biathlon. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

## *Minden Memories*

Postcard of " Buttermilk Falls, looking towards Halls Lake from Scenic Highway 35 ", photo taken in summer. /Courtesy of Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## *Book of the Week*




Former Justice Department operative Cotton Malone is drawn into a high-stakes international crisis when the sister of Sweden's king is kidnapped. The kidnappers demand the return of the legendary Devil's Bible, an 800-year-old codex taken from Bohemia centuries earlier and long kept in Stockholm. As Sweden prepares to return the manuscript, political tensions rise and Russia emerges as a possible threat to the exchange.

Tasked with rescuing the king's sister and protecting the codex, Malone and Cassiopeia Vitt soon discover that the mission is far more dangerous than it first appears. Moving from the streets of Stockholm to the skies above the Baltic Sea, they uncover shifting alliances, buried secrets, and betrayals that turn the search into a deadly and deeply personal struggle.

*The Devil's Bible* by Steve Berry is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

# Waking up and saving shorelines

IVY KATZ
*Journalist*

Screenshot from Dr. Timothy James' presentation illustrating the different stages in lake-aging. /submitted

Often we hear about lake health, lake ecology, and the importance of both, but Dr. Timothy D. James believes we need a new perspective on the discussion regarding lake health and the impact enhanced wake-sports have on our lakes.

Last weekend, Dr. James was the keynote speaker at Environment Haliburton's AGM. "Enhanced wake-sports have really started to take their toll on our lakes over the last five years affecting our ability to enjoy them," said Dr. James.

A long-time cottager in Haliburton county and now full time resident, Dr. James feels the discussion can benefit from the context of the natural history of our lakes and how they age through time. He has experienced the "truly dramatic effect these boats can have on our lakes" first-hand. Dr. James, is a board member of Safe Quiet Lakes, and also a member of the Safe Wakes Coalition.

## The geology and birth of our Ontario lakes

The last ice age ended approximately 11,000 years ago in central Ontario. As the glacial ice sheet that covered central and southern Ontario receded, hundreds of thousands geological and glacial depressions were exposed that quickly filled with water. "That was the process by which Ontario lakes were born," explains Dr. James. "At that time, the lakes had been covered by ice for over two millions years, and therefore held very little nutrients."

The process of accumulating nutrients and increasing productivity is called eutrophication, which in some ways is similar to the process of 'lake aging.' The nutrient content in lakes takes thousands years to build up, emphasizes Dr. James. "It's 11,000 years since the last ice-age and we still have many lakes that are still low in nutrients in the county, such as Kennisis, Redstone, and Halls Lakes," he said.

"Eventually with enough time, aging lakes become eutrophic," explained Dr. James. "This means the lakes have accumulated high nutrient levels and high productivity, characterized by excessive plant and algae growth, reduced water-clarity and lower oxygen levels."

As lakes become eutrophic, they tend to become less clear, because the lakes are supporting a more diverse range of plant and algae and their decomposition adds to lower oxygen levels, which ultimately affects aquatic life.

Over thousands of years, these glacial lakes gradually built up nutrients with natural processes like erosion and decomposition, causing sediments and nutrients to accumulate in the lakes, encouraging plant and animal growth, known as a positive feedback cycle. "Once the lakes can support a diverse ecosystem of vegetation and fish, they are classified as mesotrophic. "Many lakes in Haliburton cottage-country are mesotrophic," explained Dr. James.

Dr. James points out that we often think of eutrophic lakes as unhealthy, but this isn't necessarily the case. These lakes are characterised by excessive plant and algae growth and lower water clarity, but "they are important eco-systems in their own right. Typically, these lakes are not great for human recreation" explained Dr. James. "So we want to do what we can to prevent our lakes from becoming eutrophic."

## The human effect on natural lake cycles

Not surprisingly, humans can contribute to lake eutrophication by accelerating the rate at which nutrients are driven into the lake, fast-tracking the natural lake-aging process.

Human-contributed aging is known as "cultural eutrophication." Septic systems, hard shorelines, vegetation removal, and activities that cause shoreline removal are all contributing factors many of us are aware of. However, the rate at which these activities increase lake-death is not common knowledge. "Uncontrolled, human activity can contribute thousands of years of aging to a lake in a short time," he said.

Dr. James noted that through the implementation of bylaws, protecting water-sheds, and septic inspections, we have done a good job at mitigating our human impact. The problem is that we risk undoing all our hard work if new pressures are not regulated as they arise.

Dr Timothy D. James. /submitted

## Enter enhanced wakes from wake-boats

Wake-boats are engineered with ballast and mechanical devices to create substantial waves on bodies of water that naturally would never have waves that large. Wake-boats create wakes six to twelve times more powerful than traditional motor boats.

"To bring this into context, the largest waves in the great lakes, the waves powerful enough for a human to surf, are only generated during the larger storms", said Dr. James. The majority of lakes here in the county would naturally never see waves that size.

"I feel that wake-boats are the largest impact our lakes have sustained in the last 11,000 years. With the continued use of these wake-boats, we are undoing all of the positive things we achieved," emphasized Dr. James. "The boats have a place, in size-and depth-appropriate waters, where they don't affect the lakes."

## Wake-boats: different than traditional motor boats

There are two main issues with wake-boats supported by a significant volume of research, explains Dr. James. Firstly, "the high-angle of attack when these boats are in wake-surfing mode, means the prop wash can reach up to nine meters of depth, stirring up dormant sediment that has not been disturbed for literally thousands of years, thereby adding nutrients to the water-column at an accelerated rate."

In addition, vegetation is uprooted and fish habitats and nurseries are greatly impacted. Phosphorus and nitrogen are just some of the nutrients made readily available to the plants and algae. These unnaturally high-levels of nutrients accelerate lake aging.

The second element is the boat-wake itself, which reaches up to over a meter, affecting the shoreline, further washing organic materials into the lake at an unnatural rate, contributing to nutrients in the water-column. They can also add to the contribution of invasive species, and disturb natural habitat, such as loon nesting and fish habitat.

## How we can help

According to Dr. James, an outright ban is not necessary. Education is important but works best when combined with operational limitations leading to sustainable usage.

Regulating for sustainable usage where enhanced wake-boats are permitted must be based on science to mitigate environmental impacts and property damage.

There are already two key parameters, based in science, that can significantly mitigate the damage: minimum proximity to the lake bottom and minimum proximity to shore. The science is clear: the effects of wake-boats are incompatible and unsustainable in shallow waters.

Dr. James posits that a minimum depth of six metres is required for lake-safe operation. However, in cottage country's fragile ecosystem, he recommends up to nine meters of depth, to preserve fish spawning beds and nurseries.

"Even the boating industry acknowledges this is an issue. They try to inform people when they are buying the boats, but the guidelines are not as area-specific as they should be," indicated Dr. James. Environmentally safe distance-from-shore guidelines vary widely and are highly dependent on shoreline and lake-bottom characteristics.

The industry generally recommends a minimum of 200 feet (60 metres) from the shoreline.

## Overwhelming response from Haliburton county for SafeQuiet.ca survey

"Every four years, the charity Safe Quiet Lakes (safequiet.ca) undertakes a survey, with an overwhelming response from Haliburton county in 2025," said Dr. James.

The recent local survey found that up to 95 per cent of respondents put relaxing by the water, swimming, and enjoying nature at the lake at the top of their most important cottage activities. While 50 per cent plan to be in traditional motor boats, only seven per cent of respondents had wake surfing high on their list. "Many people do not realize the damage these wake-boats do, but when we tell them, often their first response is surprise and they ask 'how can I help?'" recalled Dr. James.

In short, choosing an appropriate boat for the size of the lake is just one of the ways to help. "This is a perfect example of: Just because we can do something does not mean we should do something," said Dr. James.

## New legislation has come into effect

Transport Canada via the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations (VORR) under the Canada Shipping act has recently modernized rules for limiting engine power or types of propulsion, limits on horsepower, and waters in which towing a person on any recreational or sporting equipment is prohibited except during certain hours, for public safety and to protect the environment, but now a new VORR addresses wakesurfing specifically.

## "Better Wake Zone" map launching for Canada Day long weekend

Together with Safe Quiet Lakes and the newly formed Safe Wakes Coalition, Dr. James is creating digital maps that can be used on your smartphone or marine GPS to show areas of lakes that are more compatible with sustainable wake-boat usage. They are advising that you stay at least 250 metres from shore and in at least nine metres of water to keep your shorelines and neighbours safe. Stay tuned to SafeQuiet.ca for information and video links, and the launch of the digital map system.

# A new chapter for local Paddle Club

EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

Corina Hall, owner of Deep Roots Adventure, has reintroduced the highly popular Paddle Club in an effort to get people outside, and to celebrate the sights and sounds in Haliburton County and Bancroft. /submitted

Summer is a time to meet new people, try different things, and explore different parts of the community.

Through the Paddle Club, you can do all three.

Deep Roots Adventure, an outdoor adventure company based out of the Kingscote Outpost in Harcourt, has officially launched their summer paddling program.

Facilitated by Deep Roots founder Corina Hall, the program is an iteration of an former offering from the organization, now with a new twist. "We had originally started the Paddle Club because I kept hearing over and over again from women coming into the Adventure Hub in Wilberforce that they wanted to go paddling, but their partner didn't want to go with them, and they didn't want to go alone," said Hall. "It was such a common theme that I decided to start a Women's Paddling Club. It was a ton of fun, the women got to meet new people, and check out new spots for paddling."

Yet with a heightened work load in recent years, Hall put the program on pause. "I haven't had the capacity over the past several years to do it again, but it has always been on my mind," she explained. "I now have another team member who is excited to help with it, and am ready to get it going again."

Hall shared that instead of the program focusing solely on women, this time, the Paddle Club is for anyone looking to paddle with others and explore different waterways of the Haliburton and Hastings Highlands. "Because the Kingscote Outpost is right in between, we can explore some fun places and events between Haliburton and Bancroft," said Hall. "We would love to have club members attend paddling themed events together, and we will plan some cool 'field trips' to go with our paddles when we can."

In a day and age where the world feels extra stressful, Hall believes that this is the perfect time to get into paddling. "Paddling is a wonderful way to reduce stress and get some exercise, and the Paddle Club will add a social and safety element to the mix," she said. "We plan to take the mental load out of planning, and will, based on feedback from club members filling out their expression of interest, have events planned for each week until the end of September."

The Paddle Club is open to anyone who is interested, but youth under the age of 18 will need to be accompanied by an adult. "We would love to see people commit to a membership for the season, but anyone who would like to bring a guest to one, or is only available for certain events can reach out to me for a per event pass," explained Hall. "Once someone joins, we will add them to the calendar, email list, and Facebook page so that there are lots of ways to see what is coming up."

You can find out more about the Deep Roots Adventure Paddle Club on their website, www.deeprootsadventure.com and Hall encourages anyone interested to fill out the expression of interest form. Deep Roots is located at 4071 Elephant Lake Road in Harcourt.

# Keeping it cozy with Fort Treehouse Co.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
*Editor*

Locals Lauren and Cam Green have recently opened the Hydda, a destination wine and coffee bar off Geeza Road in Minden. The bar is located on their Hartwood treehouse property. /submitted

Lauren and Cam Green have built a world in the woods.

And not just any world. It's high above the ground, with the windows peering into the tops of the trees.

Fort Treehouse Co. operates out of two properties: the Baltic near Carnarvon, and Hartwood that backs onto Dahl Forest, off of Geeza Road.

What started as a passion project during the COVID-19 pandemic has quickly snowballed into something much larger. With multiple treehouses available for rental accommodations, the owners are branching out to try to offer services to the locals, as well.

Enter: The Hydda. Translating from Swedish to mean the hut or shelter, the wine bar and cafe in the woods is designed to be a destination for not just travellers, but the local community.

"We wanted to have a communal space for everyone to be," said Lauren, "and we're officially open."

The couple bought the property that houses Hartwood and the Hydda in 2022. Through extensive back and forth with Minden township around the logistics of zoning, the property has gradually taken shape over the years. With a minor setback during the spring ice storm in 2025, the couple are now looking forward to a summer season with all the offerings.

"We're not a late night party place," explained Lauren during a recent tour of the property. "We're just a nice place to come and have a good drink."

With a finely curated selection of wines, beers, and spirits, the couple has been working with a sommelier to offer drinks from around the world. But not just any drinks. In keeping in line with wellness and nature, Lauren seeks natural, regenerative beverages to offer only the finest options.

Because they're not just trying to offer an escape, they're aiming to create an experience.

"I think we're bringing something really unique to Ontario," said Lauren. "You travel to water or somewhere abroad, but actually venturing deep into a forest is unique."

Lauren and Cam's passion for the woods came from their own background, right here in the Haliburton Highlands. The two were regular attendees at Camp Wanakita, which they still refer to as their 'happy place'. As adults, Cam returned to the local camp in a management role, while Lauren moved to Montreal. When she decided she was done with city life, she found a position at Wanakita, and reconnected with Cam. The two hit it off, with decades of friendship as their foundation, and now dedicate their lives to living in the Haliburton Highlands, with their two young kids.

In all their builds, Lauren incorporates that feeling of coziness and closeness that she pulls from Scandinavian inspirations. "That comes from my own preferences," she explained, noting the feeling of warmth when surrounded by friends and family. With wide windows and open-concept rooms, the destination in the woods is constantly changing. "No two days in the forest are ever the same," said Lauren.

And while the treehouses are taking off with visitors from all over the world, Cam and Lauren are eager to welcome the community to the Hydda. Located at 1251 Geeza Road in Minden, the destination is open from Thursday to Sunday every week. On Saturdays, they offer pay-what-you-can yoga on the front deck, and they have a number of community dinners catered by local restaurateurs, as well as live music upcoming over the summer months. Information can be found at www.forttreehouseco.com.

"Still rooted in the same idea," said Lauren, "good wine, slow mornings, evenings that linger, and life in the woods."

# NEW BOAT

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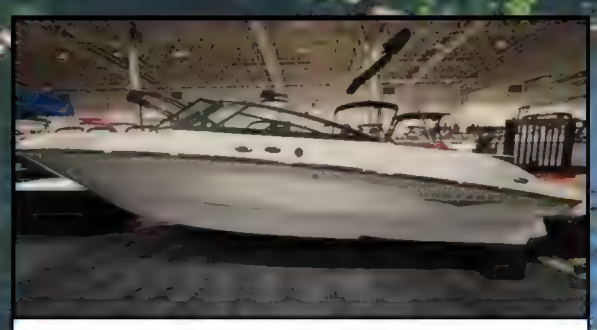

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You are invited to an appreciation event occurring on
Thursday June 18, 2026 from 5:30pm-7:30pm at the
SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena dry arena floor

- Light Refreshments
- Thank you address
- Bouncy Castle for children
- Meet and mingle

Please RSVP by registering online, emailing communityservicesbookings@mindenhills.ca
or calling the CSD Administration Desk at (705) 286-1936 x554

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

**To the many volunteers and community members who helped during the recent flooding in Minden Hills, we say**

# THANK YOU

Words cannot express our deep appreciation for everyone coming together and helping wherever it was needed throughout the flood and recovery phase.

## We humbly say thank you to:

- All the individuals, businesses and volunteers who provided donations of food, water, signs, toiletries, and support for the Evacuation/Warming Centre
- The individuals and businesses who provided fuel, equipment, and other services
- Everyone who helped to fill and move sandbags
- The area groups, service clubs and organizations who helped wherever and however needed
- The groups from beyond Haliburton County who came to help
- Our Lady of Fatima Church and A.L.L. Glass and Mirror for providing space for filled sandbags during the emergency
- The Haliburton Chamber of Commerce for assisting with organizing community volunteers
- The Township of Algonquin Highlands, the Municipality of Dysart et al, Municipality of Highlands East and the
- County of Haliburton for assisting with resources wherever needed
- The Township staff and Minden Fire Department for all your efforts during the emergency and the recovery
- EMS, OPP and Fire Personnel for conducting wellness checks for our residents
- The Honourable Jill Dunlop Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response and our MPP, Laurie Scott for advocating and providing needed resources to help our community during the flood

## Support for our Emergency Control Group

- Thank you to the County of Haliburton, EMS, OPP, Emergency Management Ontario, Lakelands Public Health, Parks Canada, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Clean Water Agency for supporting us with resources, equipment and assistance as key members of our Emergency Control Group
- To the Township staff members who make up the Emergency Control Group

**To everyone, you all went above and beyond, and we say thank you again.**

*"In times of adversity or challenge, you gain insight into the character of the people in our community. During the April flood in Minden Hills, the community showed their true heart through acts of generosity, kindness and hard work. It is humbling to witness the amazing support for our community and each other. The adage it takes a village, was how we were able to navigate the challenges with the 2026 flood."*

– Mayor Bob Carter

Local athletes went to St. Catherine's in early June to represent the Haliburton Highlands, competing against the top athletes in Ontario. Below, left, Fynn Gooley leaps to 17th in Senior Boys Long Jump. Right, Jadyn Hamilton pushes to a 7th-place finish in Junior Boys 200m. /photos submitted

# Red Hawks take flight at OFSAA track and field

Nine Red Hawks took flight for St. Catherine's and the OFSAA Track and Field Championships held June 4 through 6 at the newly renovated Niagara Olympic Club. OFSAA Track and Field features the best 24 athletes in the province with the top four qualifiers from each of the six regions in Ontario meeting at the championships.

In Thursday action, Kendall Park ran her best 400m of the season in 1:00.93, bettering her own Red Hawk Novice Girls record and moving up in the rankings from her original seed time to finish 15th.

Jadyn Hamilton went out hard in the Junior Boys 400m, but struggled to hang on to his speed through the finish line, still running consistent with his seed time in 53.53 to finish 19th overall.

The Novice Girls relay team of Elyse Kernohan, Lyla Degeer, Quinn Hamilton and Kendall Park polished their handoffs and pulled out all the stops to run a season's best time for the team of 52.67 seconds. The girls finished 11th, also moving up in the ranks.

Luke Gruppe struggled to bring his best throws in the Junior Boys Discus contending with wind and a very close-fitting metal cage. He finished 22nd with a throw of 38.19m, well below his best.

Addyson Parish took to the Triple Jump pits on Friday finishing 18th. Parish has been contending with a foot injury and also jumped well below her best with a leap of 10.62m. Parish is a first-year senior in the tough two-year age category.

Annika Gervais lined up on the track on Saturday morning in the Junior Girls 800m, showing her strength in her finishing kick to make some passes and also finish 18th with a time of 2:25.25.

In Senior Boys Long Jump Fynn Gooley hit a solid first jump in 6.27m but then faulted his second attempt and was unable to better his third jump to finish 17th in a very competitive field of Senior Boys. Gooley is also a first-year senior as a Grade 11 student.

Junior Boy Jadyn Hamilton sought redemption in the 200m. With renewed focus and determination, he ran a very fast heat to eke his way into the final as a time-qualifier in 8th place. In the final, Hamilton ran his best time of the season in 23.18 to move up to a seventh-place finish in the province.

Coaches Karen Gervais, Ginny Marsden, Russ Duhaime and Duncan Campbell are immensely proud of the athletes' determination, focus and perseverance in the face of big pressure and tough competition. They congratulate the whole Red Hawk team on all they have accomplished this season.

*Submitted by Karen Gervais*

# Haliburton Highlands Secondary School

## *Female Athlete of the Year*

## Addy Parish

*On Wednesday, June 10, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School hosted their annual athletic awards night. Despite a power outage, numerous athletes and coaches were celebrated, including the female and male athletes of the year. The following are the speeches shared by the school coaches about why they were crowned this year's Athlete of the Year. Congratulations to Addy Parish and Evan Backus on their well-deserved wins.*

/EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

**Speech written by Coach Janice Scheffee**

The desire to compete burns bright in all athletes but it is in a select few where that fire and passion take them from good to great. Great athletes use their physical size and strength to their advantage. They run fast, they hit hard, they move quick and they jump far. They outmuscle and outwork their opponent at every turn and they are relentless in their pursuit of excellence. They train hard and rarely take days off. They relish every opportunity to improve and they don't leave practice until they are satisfied. And just as important, they focus on the details. Being the first one at practice, cheering the loudest when your team scores, leading by example with a work ethic that is unparalleled and being humble in both victory and defeat. Great athletes are special and need to be valued for what they bring to a team, a program and a school. This year's Senior Athlete of the Year is a great athlete. Actually, she is an incredible athlete. She commands respect from every athlete, coach and official when she enters a competition and she dominates in not one, but in all the sports she plays. Before I invite this Senior Athlete of the Year to the stage, I would like to share a few details about our extraordinary Red Hawk, Addy Parish.

Addy is a force to be reckoned with in all four sports in which she competes. She doesn't just compete - she takes over the game or event each and every time. That is a hard thing to do in sports that have very different skill sets. This year, Addy competed in basketball, volleyball, badminton and track and field. This gruelling practice schedule had Addy at school at least four days a week - morning and after school - every week from September until June. Not to mention her sport commitments outside of school. When Addy finished her school practices, she was off to her club volleyball practices in Barrie and her track and field practices in Guelph. It is this dedication and pursuit of excellence that makes Addy stand out from her peers.

Addy was a force on the Red Hawk Senior Girls Kawartha Championship basketball team this season. Playing in her second year of basketball, Addy has made herself a threat in the Kawartha League. When asked about Addy, Coach Rieger added the following: " What stands out about Addy is her unbelievable raw athleticism. Her physical skills let her compete with the highest level players that we see, despite the fact that she has significantly less experience than them. The look of fear and confusion on defenders' faces when she gets the ball in the open court is something that will always stand out to me. Opposing players would be trying to catch up with her on a fast break, doing their absolute best to get in some kind of defensive position and then all of a sudden Addy would jump from just in front of the free-throw line for a lay up. This kind of ability is just not something that we see at our level of the game. On top of that, Addy is a wonderful person and great teammate. She is absolutely nonsense-free, gets along with everyone, and has the perfect balance between competitive fire and an easy-going sense of humour."

In badminton, Addy uses her size, strength and speed to her advantage during every match. In the words of Coach Morissette: "Addy has played singles in badminton for HHSS over the past three years. She is an extremely busy athlete and playing singles has allowed her to find practice balance with her volleyball and track and field club commitments. Addy is very competitive and driven at every tournament. Through her volleyball training she has become much stronger in hitting the bird and she now has a very effective smash. Moving forward Addy has amazing potential to keep getting better in the sport. She made it quite far at the Kawartha Championship this year and next season she may surprise a lot of other major players. Addy is an extremely talented high level athlete that represents HHSS at every event with pride and sportsmanship. She is amazing to coach and we are very fortunate to have her here as a Red Hawk.

When it comes to Track and Field, Addy has made a name for herself. Not only at HHSS but on the provincial and national stage. As a hurdler, long jumper and triple jumper, Addy shines in our COSSA region. But it is her jumping that puts her on a whole different level. Coaches Marsden and Gervais summed up Addy's track season the following way: "Addy won gold at Kawartha and COSSA in both long and triple jump this year, and qualified for OFSAA in Triple Jump for her third year in a row, despite a nagging injury. She also broke another school record with a personal best long jump of 5.34 m, and setting a new Kawartha record. Addy is a great mentor at the pits helping her teammates with drills, run throughs and jumps. She is appreciated by her teammates and coaches alike. Addy has demonstrated strength, athleticism, and perseverance. Her ability to push through challenges and strive for success has earned her the respect of coaches, teammates and competitors alike. Addy always shows gratitude to her coaches and never forgets to thank them for the time they spend with her. It only stands to reason that someone with this much talent in jumping has been recruited to train in Guelph with the Royal City Athletics track and field club to continue to push the limits of her potential.

Last but not least, there's volleyball. Addy loves all her sports, but volleyball holds a special place in her heart. Addy trains tirelessly to be the best she can be in volleyball and as a result she led her team to another Kawartha title this year and another berth at COSSA. It is in volleyball where I have witnessed first hand the sheer dominance Addy has over her opponents. Addy is the top volleyball player in our region. She dominates in the middle with her hard hits, punishing blocks, and opposing players are fearful when she serves. From the front-court, to the backcourt to the service line to the sideline, Addy makes our team better. Addy is a team first player who will do whatever is asked and will never question decisions. She is one of few middle players who pass in serve receive, another testament to the unlimited talents she possesses and her team first approach. On top of her strength, skill and competitive spirit, for me it is her character that sets her apart from most athletes. Addy is a team player and being a good teammate, cheerleader and supporter matters to Addy. She celebrates her teammates' successes more than her own and she is humble about her own victories. She leads by example without even trying and she raises the level of play of everyone around her. Outside of high school, Addy travels to play club volleyball, this past year in Barrie with the Georgian Cubs, and moving next year to play in Markham with one of the top club teams in the province. Addy's volleyball skills have made her a top prospect in the province, where she continues to attend numerous university and college recruitment camps with aspirations of playing varsity volleyball after high school.

Addy, you are an incredibly talented athlete who lives and breathes our school credo of Respect, Commitment and Responsibility in everything you do. You are an example of how hard work pays off and you demonstrate the commitment that is required to be a successful student athlete. I have had the pleasure of teaching and coaching you during your three years at HHSS and I continue to be inspired and amazed at your athleticism. Addy, you are a remarkable athlete but also a committed student and wonderful person. You continue to leave your mark on the athletic program here at HHSS and you should be proud of everything you have accomplished. We are all excited to see where your sport journey takes you beyond the walls of HHSS and as one of your biggest fans, I look forward to following your continued success. You have set the bar high for those that follow - you are an extraordinary Red Hawk.

Please help me in congratulating this year's Senior Athlete of the Year, Addy Parish.

# Haliburton Highlands Secondary School
## Male Athlete of the Year
## Evan Backus

**Speech written by Coach Karen Gervais**

When discussing who should do the honour to present this award, it was said that I had spent the most time with this athlete. I tallied up while I was writing this, and in total we have spent 10 seasons together throughout his high school career. Like some others in this class - I think I've spent more time with them, than they have with their own parents.

I will say that it was a pleasure, joy and privilege to spend those many minutes, hours and days with this athlete throughout long bus rides, practices and meets This athlete shows dedication to sport and improving himself; an athlete who always steps up to lead - whether it be warm-ups or the grunt work of loading and unloading track tents, they are ready to lend a helping hand; an athlete who values his teammates and the relationships he has developed through sport; an athlete who has shown resilience through the hills and valleys of success and disappointment and the lessons that come along with them. I'm sure everyone in this room would agree - when it comes to character, coachability, commitment, leadership and teamwork - this athlete's attributes are hard to match.

Athletes, coaches and guests - I am happy to present this year's Male Athlete of the Year - Mr. Evan Backus.

While Evan has run cross country for three out of his four years at Hal High and he was an exceptionally talented runner and we certainly missed him on our team, it was a joy to watch him return to the volleyball courts with his brother and friends. I watched them fight for COSSA gold and the chemistry on the team was apparent from the sidelines and the way they supported each other and worked together.

From Coach Gaffney on behalf of the volleyball team:

"This guy's season was kind of ridiculous. Evan hadn't played volleyball in two whole years, but the second he stepped back on the court, it was like he never left. The dude didn't miss a single beat. He was literally jumping out of the gym, shutting people down with timely blocks, and delivering one thunderous hit after another. It was wild to watch him just casually shake off two years of rust and immediately become the most improved volleyball athlete in the Kawarthas.

But what made Evan's year so awesome wasn't just his insane athleticism. He is the ultimate teammate ... always bringing the best energy, staying super positive, and just making everyone around him better. He worked his butt off and rarely missed practice, and by the end of the season, he wasn't just a contributing member of this team; he was starting for us in the COSSA finals. Evan, it was a massive welcome back year, you absolutely crushed it, and we are so glad you came back."

Evan was our Senior Boys MVP for Nordic skiing this year, consistently finishing as the top Senior Boy Red Hawk meet after meet. Evan skied to an individual silver medal at COSSA, leading our Senior Boys team of Evan, Graham, Winston, Owen, Brady and Carter to a COSSA gold medal team title. Despite very cold conditions at OFSAA Nordic in Orillia at the end of February, Evan finished 36 out of 172 High School Division skiers, with the Senior Boys team skiing to a 10th-place OFSAA finish in the relays. Evan always had a smile after his races - not always common after skiing 7km. When I asked him about his races, he always said he felt great out on the course. This year he revelled in the thrill in skiing and racing and feeling good as a result of his improved fitness.

To Evan's credit, he always remains positive regardless of the outcome of his performances. He has learned to tread the beautiful balance of striving for success in sport and remembering to also find joy and fun in his endeavours.

Evan has been a Track and Field athlete for the last four years and has been such a pillar of this team along with many of this year's grads. Next year will not feel the same without all of you.

As Coach Marsden writes: "Evan demonstrates the qualities of a true athlete - discipline, resilience, sportsmanship, and leadership. His passion for the sport and commitment to personal growth have made him an outstanding teammate. Evan showed up to almost every practice and always gave 100 per cent. He always encouraged his teammates at both practices and the meets. His positive attitude and drive to do his best both in the pits and on the track were a pleasure to watch.

/EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Evan also showed excellent commitment to his relay teammates - Graham Backus, Ben McMahon and Fynn Gooley. After years of running together, watching these boys pass a relay baton around this track is like watching water flow down a river. They know each other so well the baton doesn't skip a beat from hand to hand, and the best part is hearing them cheer for their outgoing runner louder than anyone else on the track - heard from even the opposite side of the stadium and beyond. I was so happy to see them run a Personal Best in their last relay race together at OFSAA East Regionals this year."

Evan - your commitment to practice; your athleticism, drive for personal growth and improvement; your leadership and initiative and the support you show your teammates through mentorship and encouragement are recognized here today as this year's Male Athlete of the Year. I've always said that work ethic is contagious and it is athletes like you that set the tone for the team of a culture of hard work, an environment where athletes both support and challenge each other to be the best athletic version of themselves. The leadership you have shown in our sport programs and the community-building you facilitated among athletes will leave an impression on future programs. As a graduating student, we wish you the same joy, success, resilience and character-building you have found on the trails, track and courts as you move forward in this next chapter in your life. It has truly been a pleasure to coach you the last four years through many seasons at Hal High.

Way back in Grade 9 cross country, the team started the tradition of the finish-line doughnut - pioneered, if I remember correctly by Haiden Bird, who was always highly motivated by food. Congratulations Evan - you have earned it. Enjoy the sweet cap to end what has been a remarkable Red Hawk athletic career.

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# Kawartha Dairy sold at Scoop Shack

**from page 1**

in February of this past year. While Nimigon confirmed that the renovations for that site are a work in progress, he wanted to do something for the community in the interim. "The kids deserve ice cream here," he said. "I have this vision of my daughter growing up and working here when she's in high school. That's every kid's dream."

Nimigon is the owner of Century 21 in Haliburton and Minden, and the current president of the local BIA. While he wears many hats, he said that this new ice cream endeavour is what makes his kids the most proud. "Absolutely," he laughed. "This is their favourite thing."

When Nimigon took to Facebook asking for staffing support, he shared that he was instantly inundated with resumes. "Everyone is super excited," he said. "Haliburton needs a cute little ice cream shop."

The Scoop Shack will be open Tuesday to Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nimigon hopes to extend those hours over the summer months, as well as expanding their menu. Currently, the shop focuses on hard ice creams from Kawartha Dairy.

"We've had a lot of support so far," said Nimigon, "so let's see how things go this year, and then we can grow from there."



*Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?*

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

# Kohara opens second shop

**from page 1**

curated a space that is inviting, warm, and colourful. "I want people to feel welcome when they walk through the door," said Hewson, "that's my goal here."

With a focus on clean, Canadian-made products, specifically from women-run businesses, Hewson is dedicated to offering products that are unique and sustainable. "That's really important to me," she said. "While women have made some leaps and bounds, there's still a long way to go in supporting women in this industry."

But while her passion and enthusiasm carries on in full force, the business owner noted that the first few weeks in the second location have been difficult. "It's been a disheartening start," she said, noting that her first day in business coincided with the ongoing sidewalk construction that has been dominating Highland Street. Hewson shared that she was not informed of the timing, and the construction has been impacting sales as they head into summer months.

She hopes that moving forward, the business can unite with other local shops to offer a destination for those wanting to explore downtown Haliburton. "Supporting local is so critical," said Hewson. "With tariffs and price increases, there's a massive shift happening, and it's not easy. Collaborating local is such a huge thing."

In an age where buying online or from large box stores seems to be the trend, Hewson is hopeful that many residents and cottagers are aware of how shopping local can support the community. "When you choose to buy something from us instead of buying online, you're not helping a big corporation," she said. "You're directly supporting our families who want to live here. It's all going right back to your own community."

Kohara + Co. is open from Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. "I am excited to join the downtown Haliburton small business community," said Hewson, "and to learn how we can continue to grow and support our local community as a whole."

Brandi Hewson, the owner of Kohara + Co. stands in front of their dried floral display in their new location on Highland Street in Haliburton. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

# Local author on the pulse of issues affecting youth with new book

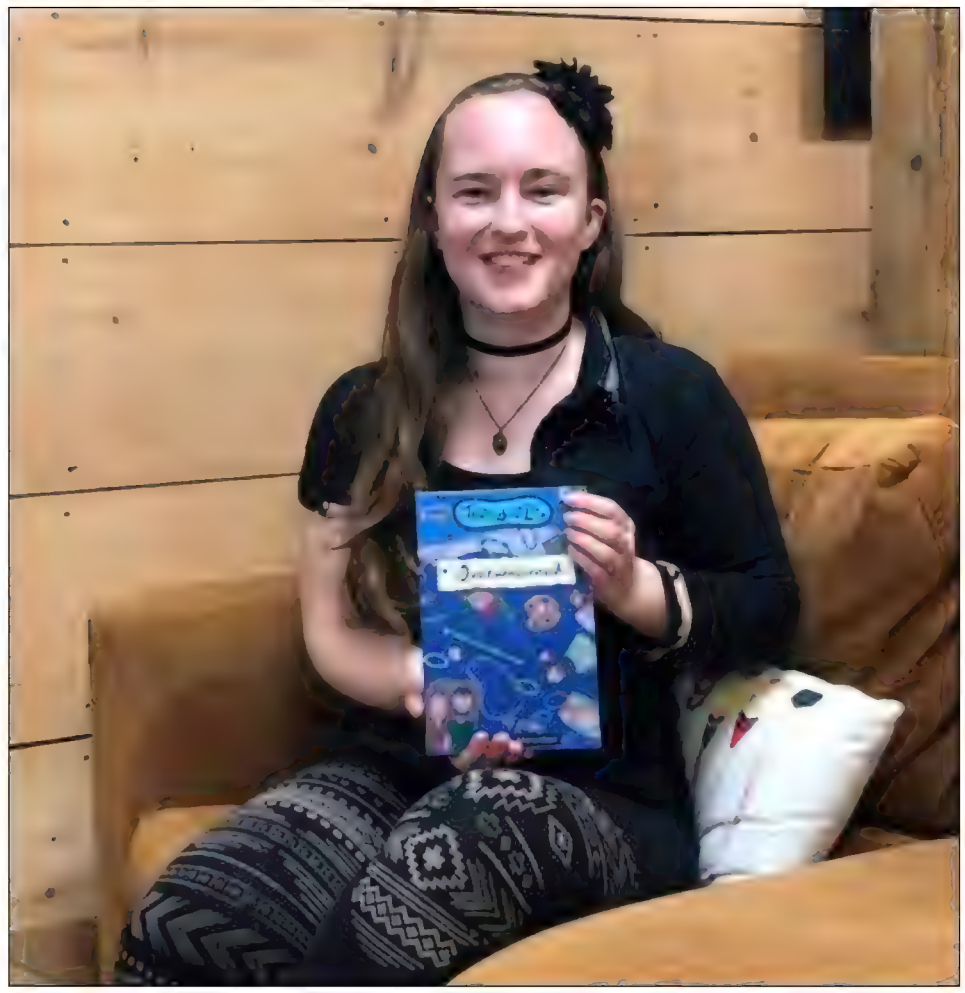
IVY KATZ
*Journalist*

Wilberforce native Christina Berning Howden is on the pulse with her new young adult novel, *Overwhelmed*, which hits the mark at being both relatable and remains infused with positive messages.

*Overwhelmed* is the first instalment in a new series entitled, *That's Just Life*, and was recently published and getting good reviews. Howden is not a newbie to writing. She has been dabbling since the age of four, when she made her first book. "It was just five pages with illustrations, but it was the beginning of an addiction. I can't stop writing," she said. She continues to be a fan-fiction contributor that ranks in the top percentiles on readership.

*Overwhelmed* is on the pulse, tapping into very real topics youth are dealing with today, such as bullying, low self-esteem and complex anxiety issues, many of them a result of peer-pressure, media messaging regarding 'beauty standards,' and the dynamics of social media.

A blend of prose and graphic novel, Howden's book is a first on many levels. "Many adults are buying my book," said the author. While *Overwhelmed* is a versatile novel, geared for ages 13 and up, it is accessible to anyone. "There isn't any swearing or otherwise graphic content, it is marked as 13 plus mainly due to the larger words on a vocabulary level, on a content level, tweens and adults can relate to it as well," said Howden.



Christina Berning Howden holds her new young adult novel *Overwhelmed* in the *That's Just Life* series. /IVY KATZ staff

Howden first conceptualized and started writing the story seventeen years ago, when she was just 13 years old, but intentionally wanted to solidify *Overwhelmed* as a "story" when she was an adult. "It was originally going to be a graphic novel, but the story expanded and wrote itself in such a way that it became a novel. I decided to keep the graphic novel elements to highlight certain scenes and lend visuals to the story," noted the author.

Howden spent the last three years pulling the story together, learning design programs, and publishing it. The end result is top-notch, both visually and story-wise.

Graphic novel is the genre for a novel that has graphics, akin to comic books, but is not in the comic book genre per se, and follows the trajectory of a traditional novel on a story board and page count level. Howden's 420 page novel is peppered with visual interpretations of the characters and scenes, which adds to the flow and gives a visual element that a standard novel lacks.

There are a few other elements that make this novel unique. For one, the main character's anxiety issues are directly conveyed, not merely suggested. "I felt compelled to write a book that I wish I had when I was a teenager," emphasized Howden. "Often self-esteem and anxiety issues youth struggle with are swept under the rug. I wanted to hone in that issue."

"I made sure my main character wasn't gorgeous in the idealized sense. She is a bit nerdy, her style is a bit awkward, she doesn't usually wear makeup, she has thin hair. The other characters in the book go out of their way to let her know what they think. The bullying feeds into her insecurities, which already exist, inadvertently creating a cycle" explained Howden.

The main character's plight was inspired by Howden's experiences growing up, but she insists the book is not biographical. "I had anxiety growing up, and I was told all the time: 'Oh, you're just shy,' but it was not just being shy," said Howden. "I was constantly afraid something bad would happen, like losing a loved one or getting fired, even when nothing was wrong. Every little inconvenience felt insurmountable."

It was years later that Howden was diagnosed with an anxiety disorder. "It was only then I realized there was no basis to these constant fears, and that changed everything for me. It was then that I started to understand how other people experienced life without constant anxiety."

The diagnosis acknowledged Howden's daily struggles, and that was a game-changer. "It helped free me," she said. "All of a sudden there was information and a discussion. I was heard. Medication helped me, I wasn't freaking out at social events. For the first time I could experience being present and not overly anxious on a day to day basis. "

Howden is quick to parallel this with the fact she feels that she had "a great life growing up." Her sense of gratitude is evident. "My generalized anxiety was that bad and yet I realize a lot of other people have it worse than me. There are people who come from abusive backgrounds and have trauma. In comparison to that, I had it good. My parents are amazing people. I shouldn't have had that level of anxiety but I did," she said.

These messages come across elegantly in the story arc of *Overwhelmed*, such as when a friend, is present during a panic-attack suffered by the protagonist. "People who have not experienced anxiety should not judge someone who has experienced it," she concludes. "You don't need to understand fully to talk to people, to be supportive. Don't be dismissive when people are communicating their struggles" she advised.

Despite this being Howden's first book, she has always been writing, and publishing on fan-fiction websites. Her most recent endeavour sits in the top 10 per cent and boasts 90,000 views. It is a 200 page story inspired by a Dreamworks film.

Fan-fiction is a genre where people take fiction that already exists and use it as inspiration for new story lines, while acknowledging where it comes from, so people who read fan-fiction are aware of the main-stream trajectory and experience a different take on the characters or plot. It is an avenue that has launched some of the biggest names in the world of best-selling books, such as Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series or E.L James' *Fifty Shades of Grey* series.

Inspired by her life experiences and of those around her, Howden knew she wanted to flip the narrative. "The girl is always pretty, she might be poor or nerdy, but she is always pretty. Whereas the guy is always expected to just go for the girls that are interested in him. I wanted to highlight inner beauty and the superficial beauty standards that exist. I wanted to draw attention to the fact that a guy may not want to be with the stereotypical hottest girl because she is superficial and does not bring much else to the table. Normally, it is the male characters symbolize it is what's on the inside that counts. This quality of inner-beauty should also be applied to the female characters," said Howden.

Howden's new website ThatsJustLifeBookSeries.ca is live and a book-launch is in the works for late summer. *Overwhelmed* can be found at Agnew's General Store in Wilberforce and Master's Books in Haliburton, Amazon, or directly via email for a signed copy at ThatsJustLifeBooks@gmail.com

"I always had a strength with words," said Howden. With the originality and important messaging for tweens spanning upwards, it is no wonder even adults are reading it.

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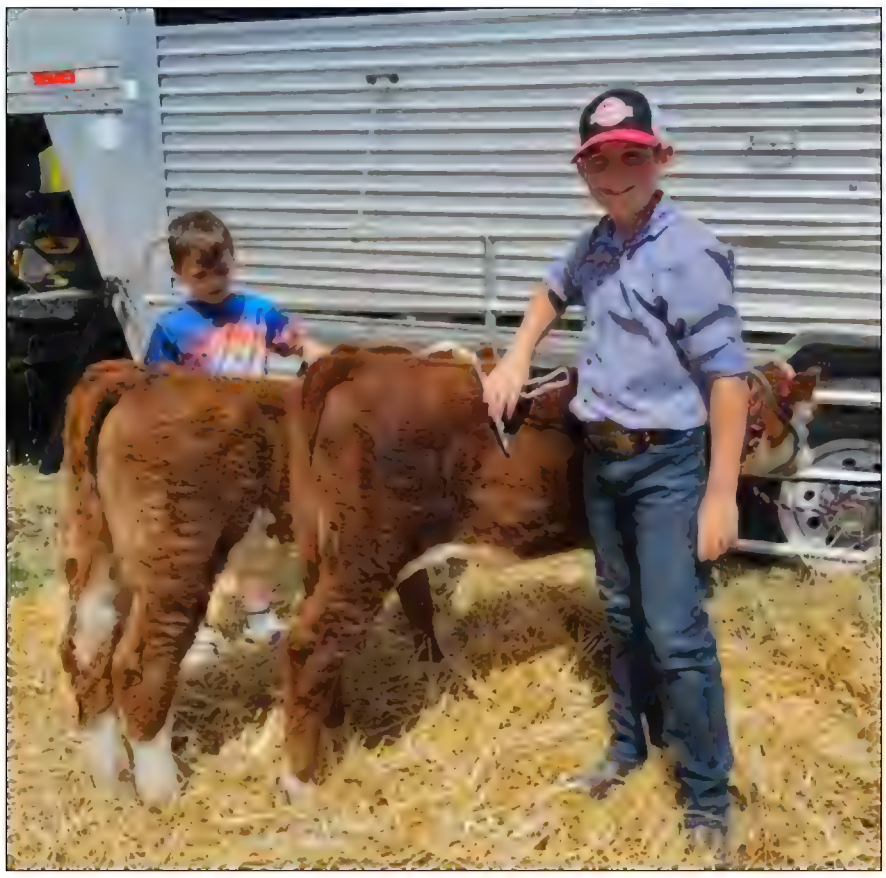
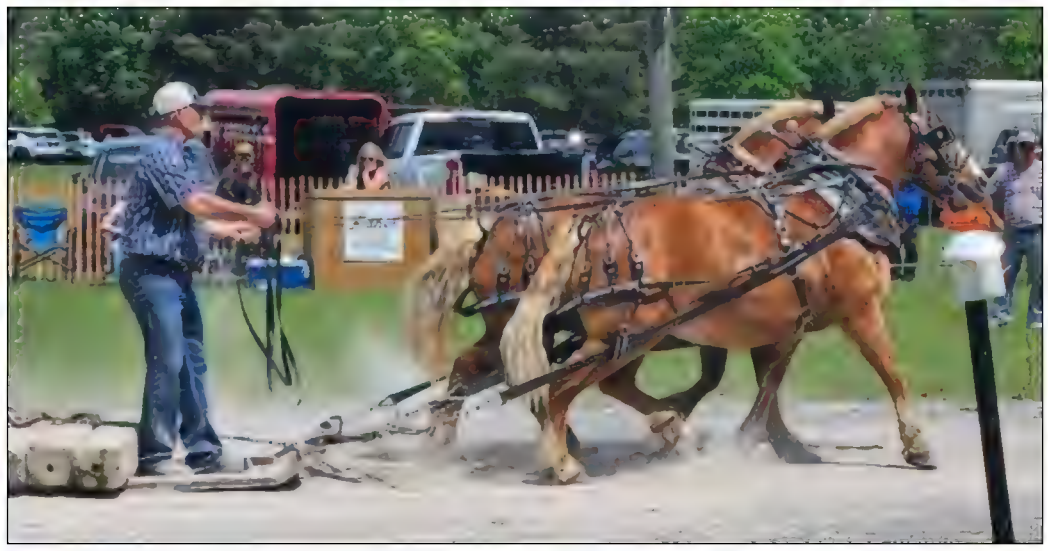


Andrew and Ryan Jones, of Fenelon Falls, proudly show off their cattle at the Haliburton County Fair

## Fun at the fair

Hailee Frey from Zoo to You holds Clyde at this Saturday's Haliburton County Fair held at the Minden Fairgrounds. Despite Friday's showers, the weather held for most of the day Saturday with clear skies. /THOMAS SMITH staff



Ashtyn and Lane Sharpless pet rabbits at Dalrymple Rabbitry's booth

HSF Live Theatre!
Highlands Summer Festival

# ANNE OF GREEN GABLES – THE MUSICAL™

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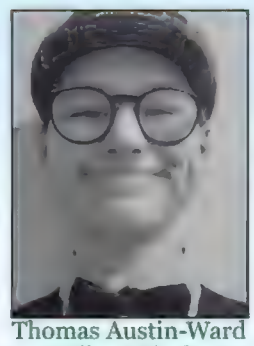
Kirsten Sixt
*Marilla Cuthbert*

Ed Canning
*Matthew Cuthbert*


Thomas Austin-Ward
*Gilbert Blythe*

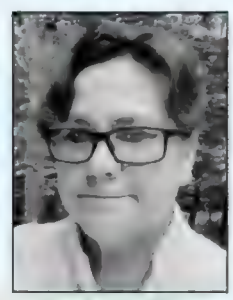
Lauren McInnes
*Rachel Lynde*

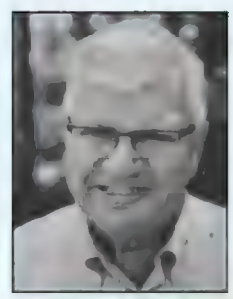
Fia Marziali
*Diana Barry*

Evelyn Mardus
*Josie Pye*

Annabelle Borgdorff
*Mrs. MacPherson/ Miss Muriel Stacy*

Catherine Wheeler
*Mrs. Sloane/ Mrs. Blewett*


Renée Griffith
*Mrs. Pye*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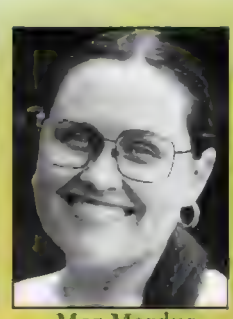
*Minister*

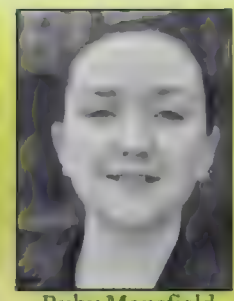
Max Ward
*Earl/Station Manager*

Curtis Eastmure
*Cecil*


Meg Mardus
*Mrs. Spencer/ Lucilla*

Christine Jonas-Simpson
*Mrs. Barry*

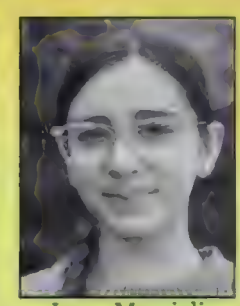
Róisín Hogan
*Prissy Andrews*

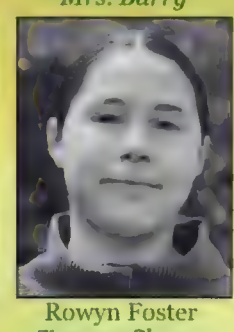

Ruby Mansfield
*Ruby Gillis*

Penelope Irvine
*Tillie Boulter*

Brooke Gooley
*Gertie Pye*

Ruairí Byrne
*Moody Sloane*


Luna Marziali
*Geraldine Buote*


Rowyn Foster
*Tammy Sloane*

Aiofe Hogan
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Music Director
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# Reclaiming Joy: Inside Haliburton's first Wildwoods Women dance party

DANIELLE CARNEY

*Guest Columnist*

Attending the Wildwoods Women Dance Party - a women-only celebration of dance and community - was an easy yes.

I put on a summer dress and (regrettably) flip-flops, said goodbye to my two teen boys and set out for a night of 80s, 90s, and 2000s nostalgia. David Bowie's *Modern Love* set the tone as I pulled out of the driveway and made my way to the Pinestone Resort.

Entering the venue, I was welcomed by a smiling face and directed to a table in the foyer where two women I know well were pouring mocktails. Each participant received a raffle ticket to vie for one of the beautifully curated bundles featuring items and services from over 20 local women-led businesses.

Next, I was invited to make a floral crown at the Petals & Roots table. The table was brimming with Angela Fearrey's freshly foraged greenery and flowers. Floral and herbaceous scents filled the air as women busily inserted flowers and foliage into pre-formed wire crowns while laughing and talking.

I filled mine with lily of the valley, delicate bell-shaped white blossoms with a sweet fragrance synonymous with spring. The simple creative task eased my slightly introverted soul as more women arrived.

After photos at a floral photo booth courtesy of Petals & Roots women began filtering into the bar area wearing their newly woven crowns, giving the evening a feeling of natural ceremony.

Dimly lit with candles and a sparkling disco ball, the bar buzzed with conversation. Beyond it, the dance floor awaited.

A snapshot of the dance floor during the June 6 Wildwoods Women dance party hosted at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre. Women of all ages joined together for a night of dancing and joy. /DANIELLE CARNEY

Nostalgic music interwoven with a house beat filled the space without drowning out conversation.

The beat and nostalgia of the music eventually beckoned women to the dance floor. The DJ, intuitively reading the room, gradually turned up the volume. At first, dancing happened in smaller groups. Then the energy shifted and the floor opened into one joyful, unified group of dancing women.

"It was evident that a lot of thought had gone into details that would appeal to women such as the raffles, the flower crowns, the mocktails and the decorations," said attendee Erin Lynch. "The organizers did a great job in creating a great inclusive vibe which includes older women."

Another participant, Anne Hollingsworth, shared what drew her: "What piqued my interest was primarily attending an all women's event - I thought it would be an excellent opportunity for us to let our hair down. Also, I've lived in Haliburton for a year and a half and thought this would be an excellent opportunity to see and meet more of my community."

Over 100 Wildwoods women turned out to get down, filling the dance floor with a feeling of celebration.

"There were women from all aspects of the community - doctors, municipal workers, artists, people that work at the grocery store," noted Lynch. "It was a very eclectic group that all came together to move and have fun."

Organizer Melissa Tong described the palpable energy on the dance floor: "It was tangible, the vibration of everybody collectively getting together to dance, to have joy, to have fun. That is something you can feel with all your senses. There was lots of love. There was a lot of relief. There was a lot of laughter. There was a lot of silliness. There was a lot of just that deep down feeling good."

She also highlighted the floral crowns: "A lot of people commented on it and just the way the light hits it. When you're dancing amongst the people and everybody was wearing one, it gave them this deepened sense of connection to self."

I believe there is an inherent freedom, especially through stressful times, to quiet the mind and let your body move to a rhythmic beat. Life, like dance, isn't static - it's always moving, changing, and evolving and we must go with it, steering our lives with the current.

Tong is already looking ahead: "I would like to host another one for sure, probably not so late in the season, probably earlier in the spring... because I think June is tricky for a lot of people."

Angela Fearrey added, "It was such a fun evening and we hope to be part of the next event as well."

Nights like this are far from frivolous - joy is essential. Being joyful together can do great things for the individual and for our community. Joy can ripple out into everything.

We need to talk about the future.

The County of Haliburton has launched a Community-wide Affordability and Governance Structure Study.

**Have your say!**
Learn more about public open houses and take the survey at **wadein.haliburtoncounty.ca**

*Community survey open until June 28, 2026.*

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## Municipality of Dysart et al

*In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands*

**FORM 6**
**SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER**
***Municipal Act, 2001***
**Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules**

**SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE**

**Take Notice** that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 22, 2026, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

**Description of Lands:**
1. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 45100 0000; 1701 - 1741 WIGAMOG RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39252-0140 (LT); PT LT 2-3 CON 6 DYSART PT 1, 2, 19R8110; T/W H243561 & H127169; T/W H263271; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-38
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $841,000
**Minimum tender amount: $110,337.04**

2. Roll No. 46 24 011 000 20200 0000; 1025 MEADOWVIEW RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39172-0071 (LT); PT LT 14 CON 7 DYSART AS IN H86046; S/T H32659; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-06
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $293,000
**Minimum tender amount: $20,176.08**

3. Roll No. 46 24 013 000 13800 0000; 1068 HURRICANE LAKE DR., HALIBURTON; PIN 39185-0031 (LT); PT LT 6 CON 13 DYSART PT 3 19R904 EXCEPT PT 1 19R1162; T/W H113633 EXCEPT THE EASEMENT THEREIN RE PT 2 19R1162; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-20
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $128,000
**Minimum tender amount: $13,907.90**

4. Roll No. 46 24 040 000 35300 0000; DYSART ET AL; PIN 39141-0342 (LT); PT LT 8 CON 3 GUILFORD AS IN H127005; UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE; File No. 25-35
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $82,000
**Minimum tender amount: $11,854.00**

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/ tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser. A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

Crystal Bliedung
Tax Collector
The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart,
Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde
135 Maple Avenue
P.O. Box 389
Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
(705) 457-1740 Ext 639
cbliedung@dysartetal.ca www.dysartetal.ca

# Soapstone workshop; no suds about it

THOMAS SMITH

*Journalist*

Algonquin Highlands will be offering two workshops that will make you feel grounded.

Gather no moss as you head to Lloyd Stonehouse's soapstone carving workshops held in Stanhope and Dorset this July.

As a kid, Stonehouse's family had a trailer they would camp at in the Stittsville area. Riding his bike outdoors and playing in the woods, his yearning for adventure and nature was fostered at a young age.

Becoming a high school teacher in the Ottawa area, Stonehouse was introduced to paddlemaking by the Outdoor Education teacher. Falling in love with the craft immediately, Stonehouse has been making paddles for several decades becoming a known name in woodcarving circles across Ontario.

A lifelong paddler, Stonehouse has traveller throughout the Canadian wilderness and beyond on the water. Adventures that have taken him to places like the High Arctic.

Thirty years ago, while selling his paddles at an Art in the Park event at Bon Echo Provincial Park, his neighbour was a dedicated soapstone carver.

Lending him a piece of stone to play around with, he knew that soapstone would be a perfect addition to his art practice and agreed to go in on a deal importing soapstone.

Combining his interest in paddlemaking and soapstone carving, Stonehouse toured Canada and National Parks for many years, offering artisanal paddlemaking and soapstone carving courses to interested visitors.

Recently, Stonehouse says that he has lessened his travelling. However, with a family cottage in Lake of Bays, it did not take long for others to hear of his artistic abilities.

Playing pickleball at the Dorset Recreation Centre, word has spread quickly of his talents.

"Soapstone carving is very therapeutic," said Stonehouse.

As an educator, he says that the most rewarding part of the workshops he offers is giving people their first opportunity to express themselves creatively.

After the workshop, the joy that can be seen on people's faces is palatable and contagious.

There will be two soapstone carving workshops offered in Algonquin Highlands this July.

The first will be taking place on Wednesday, July 8 at the Stanhope Pavilion at 1095 North Shore Road in Stanhope. The second workshop will be held on Thursday July 9 at the Tapscott-Lopes Park in Dorset.

The workshops are $25 plus tax to participate and run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All tools, stone, and supplies are provided for the workshop. Stonehouse asks people to bring plenty of fluids and snacks for the day to keep focused on creating art. If you are interested in participating, please call 705-766-9968 or email recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca.

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Minden Rotary was serving hotdogs and hamburgers at the grand opening of OK Tire Minden at Minden Auto Care.

Jim Ecclestone cuts the ribbon at the grand opening ceremony of OK Tire Minden held on Saturday June 13. The event held a barbecue for visitors, giveaways, and a public appearance of the Minden Moose. OK Tire Minden will coexist with Minden Auto Care./THOMAS SMITH staff

# Minden Auto Care franchises with OK Tire

THOMAS SMITH

*Journalist*

Dennis Pennie welcomes the Minden Moose to guests at OK Tire Minden's grand opening held on Saturday, June 13. This was the Minden Moose's first public appearance. OK Tire Minden's service will operate out of Minden Auto.

Beyond automotive care, Minden Auto Care's Dennis and Lori Pennie go above and beyond as members in the Minden Community.

From supporting Fuel for Warmth, the Minden Community Food Centre, Minden's Rotary Club, and their involvement in the Minden Business Working Group, there is a reason that the mechanic shop sitting on Water Street received one of the first of Minden's moose statues.

Being situated on Water Street since 1985, Minden Auto Care has become a household name to residents across the entire county.

Nearly six years ago, Dennis and Lori took up the mantle and the Minden Auto Care name. With over 30 years of experience working on European models of cars, Dennis's eyes light up at the sight of brands like BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Audi.

"That was our main focus when we started up," said Dennis. "If you come in with the attitude that a car is a car, you can fix anything."

Throughout the six years of the Pennies at the steering wheel, the store now has full exhaust capabilities, alignment machine, tire machines, and diagnostic tools, amongst other improvements to the shop and storefront.

Six months ago, the couple began the process of connecting with the OK Tire franchise. A longtime customer, being the family friend of one of Toronto's largest OK Tire locations, connected Dennis to him.

Dennis says that they spoke extensively on the pros and cons of franchising with OK Tire, with pros vastly outnumbering any cons.

"It was a long process," said Dennis. "It makes us a complete shop, we don't have to farm anything out."

With surrounding competition, Dennis says that franchising with OK Tire will make them more competitive, allowing for wholesale and more partnerships with the community.

"It brings a national brand to downtown Minden," said Dennis. "I think it will be good for the other local businesses as it should increase traffic."

The collaboration allows their shop to bring in specialized products like special rims. To accommodate tire sales and to offer storage, the Pennies have rented a warehouse space. Now, you can store your winter and summer tires with them throughout the year.

With the incoming cottage and tourist visitors, Dennis says one common issue is for people to come in with a flat tire. With few options for purchasing tires in town, he hopes word will spread about their extensive range of tires.

"It is a way of expanding our business without increasing our property," said Lori. "We wanted to find something that would increase our revenue without spending the money on a new shop."

Connected to all the other 325 OK Tire locations across Canada, booking an appointment at OK Tire Minden is as easy as clicking a button on their website oktire.com.

"I am most excited about how easy things are going to be," said Dennis. "Everything is going to be all-in-one. I am able to save my customers some money and make it easier to shop for tires."

With his grandchildren taking more of his time, he hopes that the success of the franchise allows for him to lessen his presence in the shop and be able to add to the capabilities of his team.

A faithful employee of the Pennies, Adam Judd, has already been chosen as the successor of the business.

While his giant shoes won't be filled for many years to come, Dennis says that OK Tire gets active in the local communities in which they operate.

At the latest Rotary Gala Dinner, the Pennies brought their OK Tire sales representative to meet people in the community. At the event, they offered a $1,000 gift certificate in the silent auction which saw a lot of bidding action throughout the night.

"I think we can use OK Tire to help promote Minden," said Dennis. "OK Tire has brought us in like family."

Throughout the process, representatives from OK Tire have contacted Dennis daily to check in how things are going. With the entire team and wisdom behind OK Tire, he feels more secure and capable of success as a business in Minden.

On Saturday, June 13, OK Tire Minden Auto celebrated its grand opening with the Minden Moose, a barbecue, and giveaways to celebrate with the community of Minden.

135 Maple Ave., Haliburton
Tel: (705) 457-1740 ext. 659
www.dysartetal.ca

**Public Notice**

The Municipality of Dysart will pause the acceptance of construction and demolition materials from the West Guilford waste disposal site for approximately 12 weeks while we complete some required work on site. Operating hours at the Haliburton waste disposal site will be 6 days per week, Tuesday to Sunday effective July 3rd. For updates please visit our website dysartetal.ca, our waste wizard app or one of our social media channels.

**PUMP IT UP PROJECT**
**CALL FOR ARTWORK!**

Dysart et al Cultural Resources Committee is calling out to artists to submit 2D visual artwork, either existing or new, to be used as an image for a vinyl wrap for a sewage pumping station located in the Village of Haliburton.

**AWARD OF $400**

Theme: Nature and the Outdoors.
Submission deadline: Friday, June 26th
Applicants **MUST** be under 25

Scan for Submission Form

DYSART ET AL

Questions:
dysartpumpitupproject@gmail.com

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## BOB LAKE YEAR ROUND $949,999

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**Lynda Litwin**
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## 1015 KELSON RD $1,385,000

- 2.467-acre property with access to Kashagawigamog Lake and scenic views
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- Bright living spaces with large windows and a spacious kitchen
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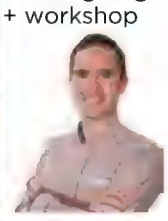

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## SUMMER LANE $1,175,000

Royal Home offers 2+1 bedrooms & 2 full bathrooms, along the shores of Minden Lake. Open concept living/ dining space w/ vaulted ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows. Detached garage fully equipped with its own electrical panel, connected to the main service via underground, perfect for a workshop, extra storage, or hobby space. Property is a registered Short-Term Rental, offering excellent income potential or the flexibility to offset ownership costs.

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Broker
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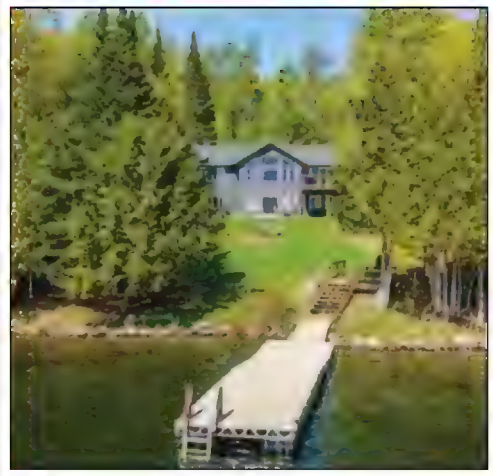
lisa@lisamercer.ca

## WENONA LAKE $1,200,000



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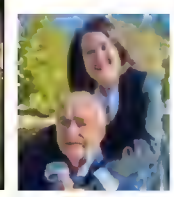

**John & Marj Parish**
**John Parish**
**705-457-5485**
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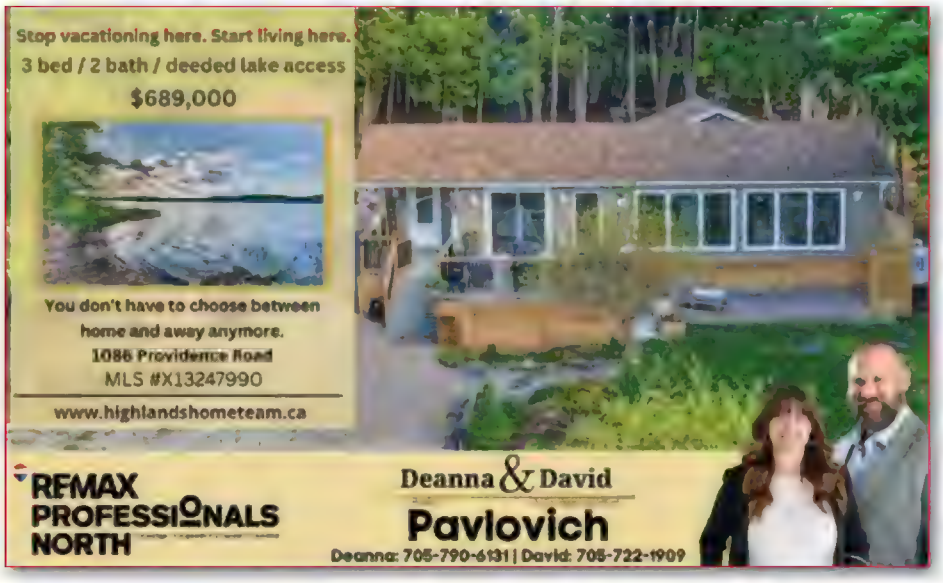
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## 7180 GELERT ROAD $569,000

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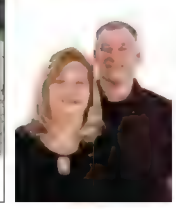

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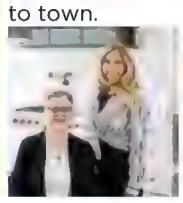

**Terry Carr & Drew Staniforth**
Sales Representatives
**705-935-1011**
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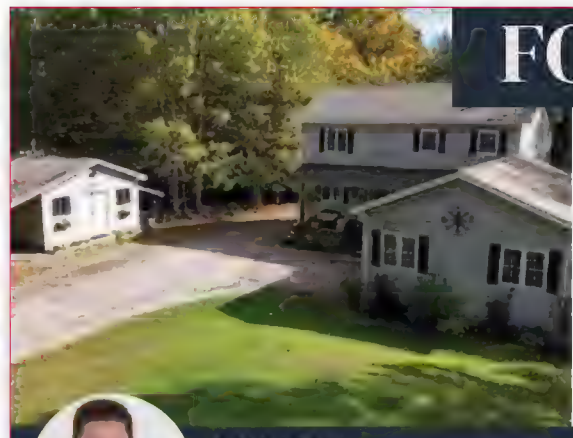
## FOR SALE!



- 3 Bedrooms
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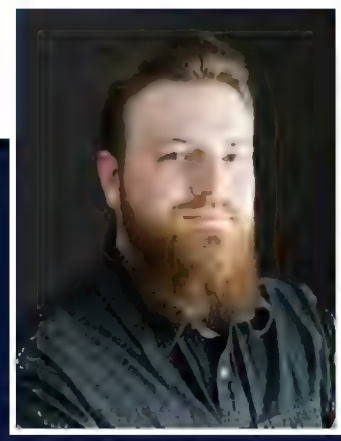

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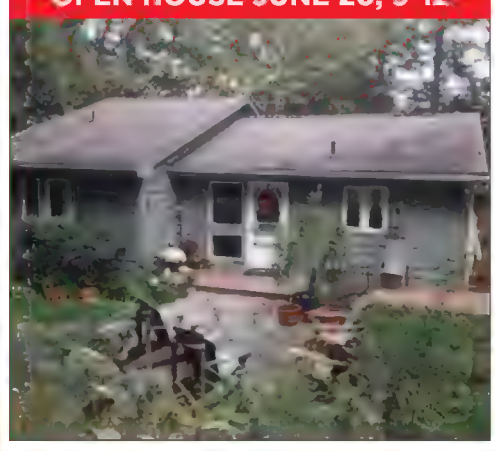

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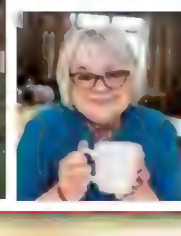

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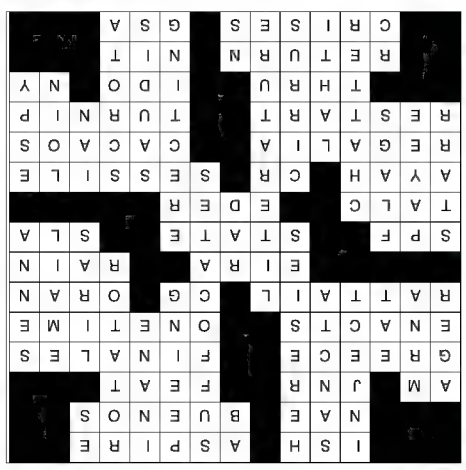

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires:**

**One (1) Patrol Superintendent**
This role performs road patrols, provides direction to staff, contractors, obtains locates, provides project layouts, and supports maintenance and repair operations for the County Haliburton. This role provides supervision and there is a regular requirement to be on call as well as work weekends and evenings.

The successful candidate will possess a DZ licence and three (3) years of related experience. The hourly rate is $36.32 - $42.49.

**Applications**
Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **July 1, 2026.**

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This role is responsible for planning, facilitating, and supporting in-person, virtual, and outreach programs and events for all age groups across all library branch locations.

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We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
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*"Just a memory fond and true,*
*To show I still remember you,*
*Though 28 years have passed away,*
*Still I miss you every day."*

*Sadly missed*
*By Daughter, Cheryl*

## WANTED

***Historical Photos From Bancroft & Surrounding Communities***

Help kick off our Pic of the Past section by sending in your pictures to jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

When possible, please include dates, names,and location.

*(Preferrably from before 1970)*

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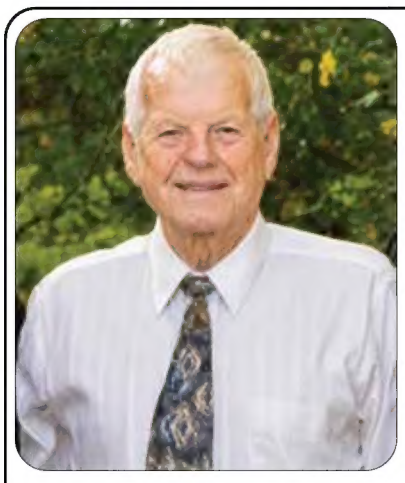

### Wayne Rutter

It is with deep sadness that the family of Wayne Rutter announce his peaceful passing and his entrance into the presence of his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Wayne was born on April 25, 1938, in Coboconk, Ontario, to the late Thomas and Ruth Rutter. Throughout his 88 years, Wayne lived a life marked by faith, devotion to family, service to others, and a strong commitment to hard work.

Wayne was the cherished husband of Beryl Rutter (nee Stamp) for 62 blessed years. They met while they were both employed at the Wilberforce Veneer and Lumber Company. After a brief courtship, they were married on June 6th,1964, and together they created a home filled with warmth, laughter, and Christian values.

He was a loving and devoted father to Melanie Storey (Elwood) and Mike Rutter (Tammy) and a proud grandfather to Lauren Warren (Brennan), Emma, Destiny, and Brayden. He was predeceased by his brothers Arnold, Harold, and Garnet and his three sisters Isobel, Ruth and Ethel who died in infancy. Wayne treasured every moment spent with his family and was a source of wisdom, encouragement, and steadfast support throughout their lives.

Wayne was also a beloved uncle to many nieces and nephews, each of whom held a special place in his heart. Wayne loved spending time with his church family and, in later years, the walking group. His kindness, gentle humour, and genuine interest in others created lasting memories for all who knew him.

A man of deep and abiding faith, Wayne faithfully served as Pastor of Wilberforce Full Gospel Church, where he dedicated many years to preaching the Gospel and sharing the love of Christ. His faith was not only spoken from the pulpit but lived daily through his compassion, humility, and willingness to help those in need.

Wayne's strong work ethic was evident throughout his life. He worked in a variety of occupations, including septic tank pumping, study hall supervisor at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, and a variety of jobs at Wilberforce Veneer.

While his family grieves his loss, they rejoice in the assurance that Wayne is now at peace in the presence of his Saviour.

**Celebration Of Life**

Friends and family are invited to join the family at the **LLOYD WATSON MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE** 2249 Loop Road, Wilberforce on Saturday, June 27th from 1 - 3 p.m. to celebrate Wayne's life. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Wayne's memory can be made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or Autism Ontario. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

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| 8 | 9 | | | 7 | | 3 | | |

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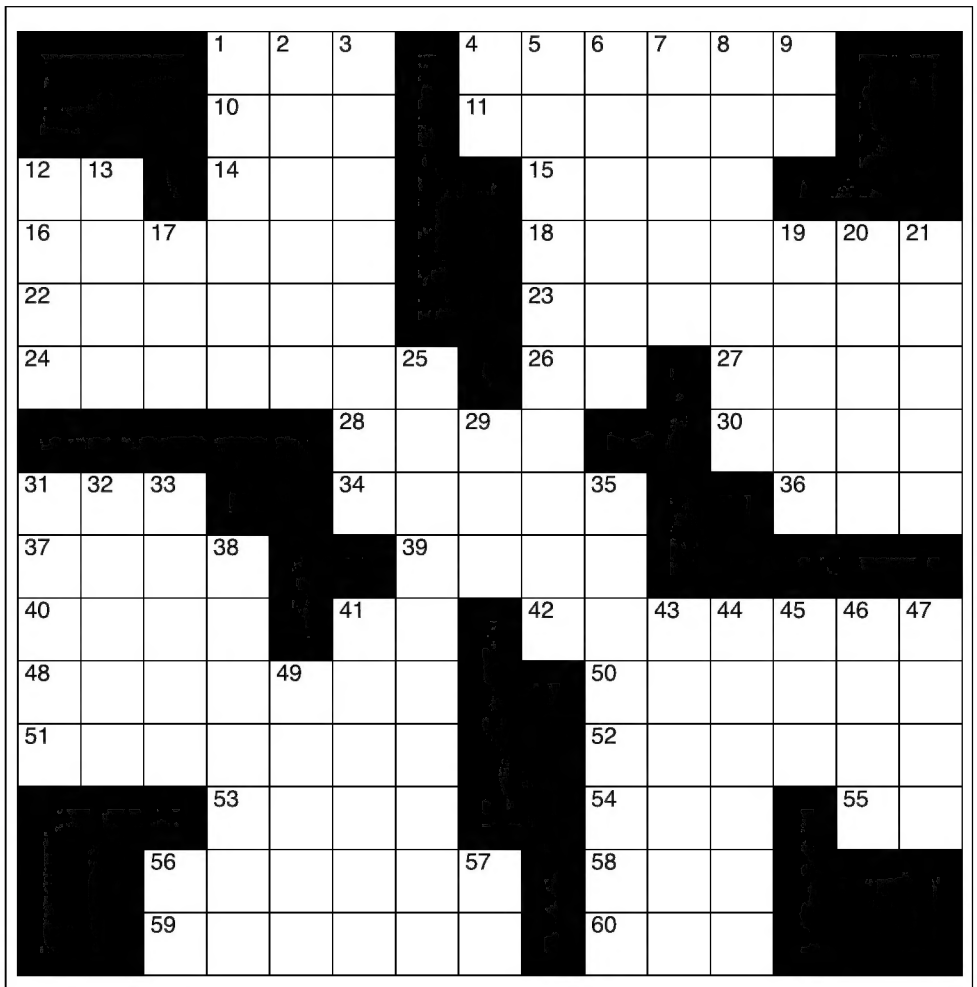
**Here's How It Works:**
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



CLUES ACROSS
1. Similar
4. Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal
10. No (Scottish)
11. __ Aires, city
12. Morning
14. Senior's son (abbr.)
15. A notable achievement
16. European nation
18. Endings
22. Puts into place
23. Former
24. Grenadier
26. Sea patrol
27. Algerian port
28. Norwegian river
30. Precipitation
31. Sunscreen rating
34. New York is one
36. Patti Hearst's captors
37. Soft mineral with greasy feel
39. Retired Brazilian footballer
40. An Indian nursemaid
41. Atomic #24
42. Immobile
48. Insignia of royalty
50. Seeds from which chocolate is made
51. Begin again
52. Round root
53. Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
54. What newlyweds just said
55. Empire State
56. Give back
58. College hoops tournament
59. Unstable situations
60. Young women's association

CLUES DOWN
1. Administer a drug
2. Holy places
3. Contrary opinions
4. Blood type
5. Gags
6. Micturating
7. Silly
8. A type of "cuff"
9. Spanish be
12. Austrian river
13. Messenger ribonucleic acid
17. Consume food
19. California supermarket
20. Electronic communication
21. Cassia tree
25. Written works
29. Cool!
31. Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
32. One who was compensated
33. National symbols
35. Raising
38. A type of talk
41. Cloud
43. Middle Eastern peoples
44. Pouches
45. 007's creator
46. A cut of meat
47. Sports entertainment award
49. Christine __, actress
56. Relief organization (abbr.)
57. Canadian province (abbr.)

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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
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## School projects pass another test of approval

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Construction projects planned by Haliburton's school board have re-entered the up-cycle of their Yo-Yo ride from the drawing board to reality.

In a sudden about-face, the local committee overseeing the amalgamation of the boards in Haliburton, Muskoka and Victoria County has thrown its support behind the expansion plans.

Just a month ago the committee didn't back the board exceeding spending levels previously approved by the province to upgrade the high school and replace Victoria Street School.

The move left the board facing the prospect of scaling down the projects to fit into a budget about half the size.

But last week the committee — including three trustees from both Haliburton and Victoria, plus four from Muskoka — reversed its decision, giving the two proposals its seal of approval.

"That's a big step. It's a real turnaround," said Haliburton board chair Cheryl Murdoch, who also chairs the transition committee. "We went to the meeting Tuesday night thinking the best we were going to get was support in principle, but the way it worked out was far better."

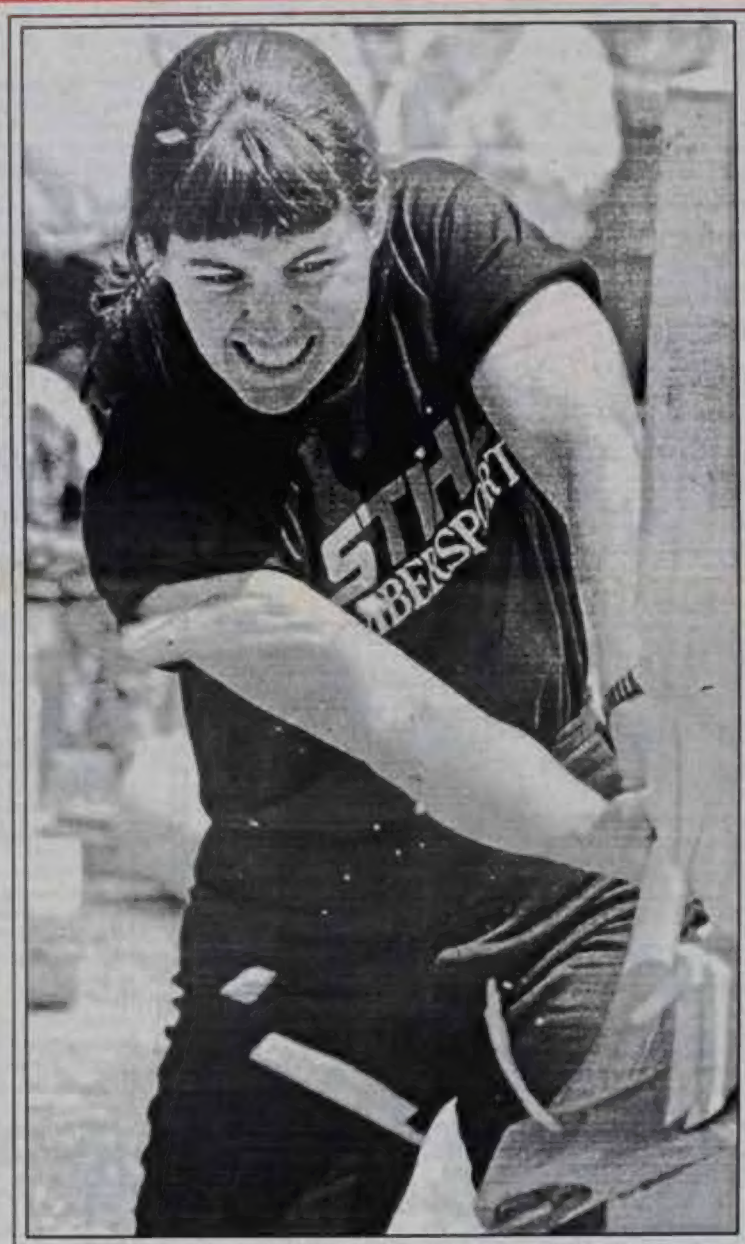
The board still needs to get final approval from the provincial Education Improvement Commission (EIC) and the Ministry of Education before it can move ahead with either of the construction projects.

However, board officials are hopeful the local transition committee's endorsement of the building proposals will carry a lot of weight at the provincial level.

The board could learn of the EIC's ruling on the projects as early as this week, said education director Brad Saunders.

The commission has said it will try to notify boards of its decisions within 72 hours of receiving their construction proposals.

See LOCAL page 7



TIMBER!!

Competing in one of the men's events, Peg Pasek of New York State takes her ax to a log during Saturday's Timbersport competition on Main Street Minden . More photos on pages 16 and 17.

## Tempers flare in Galway/Cavendish

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Things got pretty hot in the Galway-Cavendish council chambers on Sunday morning, and it wasn't just because there were about 75 people jammed into a space which was designed to accommodate half that number.

Tempers boiled over both during and after the meeting, which degenerated into an insult-hurling match before the hour was out.

Since most of the 70-odd people gathered among two small rooms and the hallway were in favour of the motion to have this northern Peterborough County municipality join Haliburton County, their anger was directed towards the two council members who voted against the move.

Even after Reeve Oliver Lloyd called for the meeting to end, the shouting continued, with Lloyd and Councillor Ken Carson taking the brunt of the sharp and sometimes nasty barbs.

"It was actually pretty calm. I thought there'd be a riot," said Kinmount historian Guy Scott after the meeting ended. "This was meeting number five or six and we're losing our patience."

(Scott was at the meeting and while he agrees with the decision to join Haliburton County, was not one of those who took part in the slanging match.)

He explains that many people

See GALWAY page 8

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## Fight in park mars last day of classes

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Haliburton's high school is vowing to crack down on students who skip the last day of classes after a very public fight on Wednesday at Head Lake Park that sent one teenager to hospital with minor injuries.

Officers with the Minden OPP had to be called in to disperse those who remained from a crowd of at least 125 students following the afternoon brawl.

Students — many who were cutting the final day of class before exams — began congregating at the park shortly before 12 noon.

About two hours later the peaceful gathering turned violent when two male teenagers started to fight.

Nearly all of the students in the park formed a large circle around the two fighting, many of them jeering and calling out at the fighters.

At one point (as could be seen from The Echo's office) one of the teens was pushed into Head Lake with at least two other students on top of him, punching and hitting him.

The crowd of student spectators let out a large chorus of

See POLICE page 2


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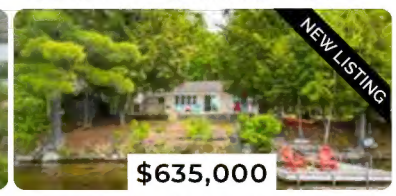

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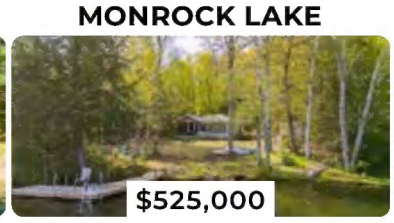
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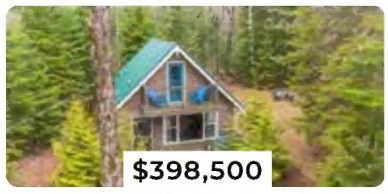
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